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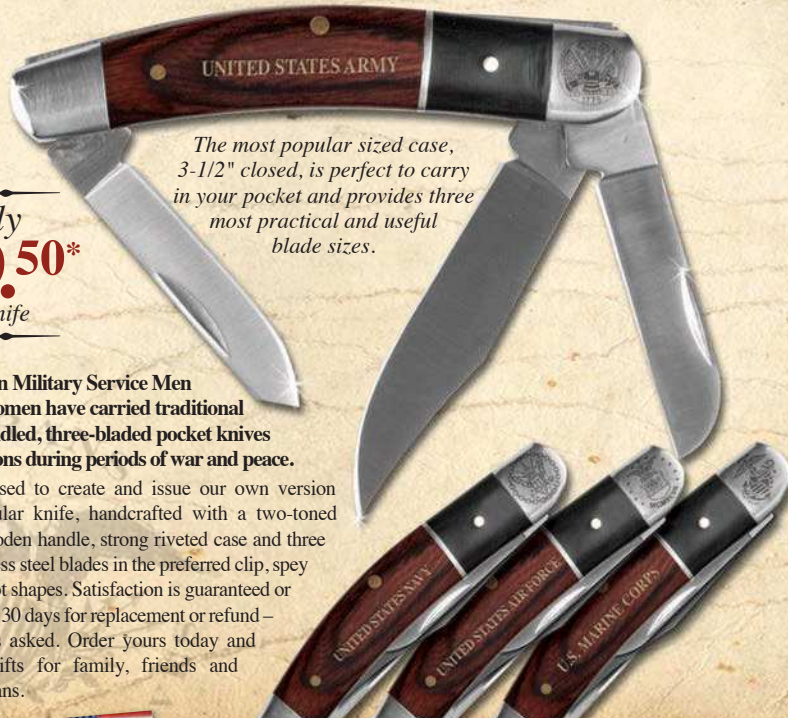
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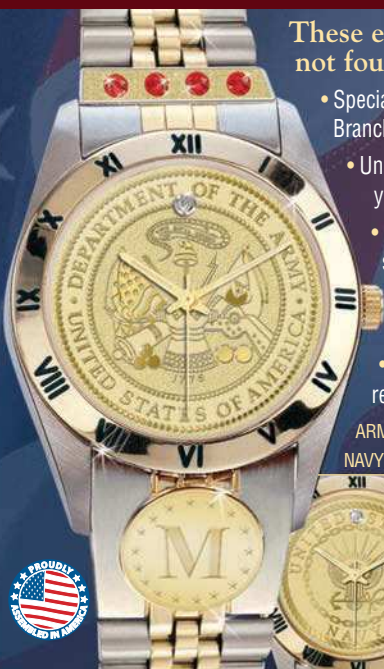
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contents

March 2013 • Vol. 174, No. 3

22 The Mysteries of Tonkin Gulf

Declassified documents and other records reveal inconsistencies in the sequence of events leading to U.S. entry in the Vietnam War. *By John Prados*

On the cover

30 Forward Motion

Operation Comfort Warriors provides rehabilitation equipment, entertainment options and joyful smiles to wounded and ill servicemembers.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Sterling, physical therapy assistant Jon Chittim and Army Sgt. 1st Class Ron Speilmann, from left, make use of hand cycles donated by The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. Photo by Scott Spiker

36 The Will to Drill

If the United States embraces its own petroleum reserves, North America could become the new Middle East. *By Alan W. Dowd*

40 A Sacred Priority

American Legion members in Ireland are serious about taking care of each other, alive or gone. *By Jeff Stoffer*

5 Vet Voice

8 Commander's Message

10 I Am The American Legion

12 Big Issues

15 Living Well

20 Veterans Update

48 Rapid Fire

60 Comrades

64 Parting Shots

THE 'WRITE' THING

At the White House's invitation, The American Legion participated in the National Day of Service in Washington on Jan. 19, welcoming visitors to its booth on the National Mall. Nearly 2,000 people – including National Commander Jim Koutz – stopped by to write letters of support to veterans, and dozens more signed up to volunteer at VA medical facilities. *Photo by Craig Roberts*



The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.5 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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'The Return of ROTC'

I was pleased to read the article by Doug Wissing (January). I fought as a private first class in the battles of southern France and the Vosges mountains in World War II. I was captured by the Germans and survived a slave labor camp where 25 of 200 prisoners died of starvation.

After I was discharged as a corporal in December 1945, I was accepted as a student at the University of Massachusetts at Fort Devens. During my junior year, I transferred to the Amherst campus and joined ROTC. I was extremely proud when I graduated as a second lieutenant in the Armored Cavalry reserve in June 1950. I was discharged with the rank of first lieutenant in 1956.

I have always supported ROTC in high schools and colleges, and I admire everyone who has graduated from an ROTC program.

— Theodore Jenkins, Hanover, Pa.



AP/Jessica Hill

Doug Wissing apparently isn't aware that Cornell University is in the Ivy League. Cornell is a land-grant college and has had an ROTC program since its inception. I took the course as a freshman in 1944, served in Germany as a rifleman in the 16th Infantry Regiment, then came back to continue my education and get my commission in 1951. I then served in Korea with the 780th Field Artillery Battalion, seeing action as a battery officer and then battalion adjutant. I met many Cornell ROTC officers who served with distinction.

Considering that Cornell had a thriving program during both world wars, Korea, Vietnam and the current conflicts in the Near East, I suspect Big Red has produced more ROTC officers than any of the other Ivy League institutions featured.

— Karl J. Van Valkenburgh,
West Granby, Conn.

I appreciate that you could not mention every college and university with famous ROTC alumni, but what about Villanova University? Who else could

have had the fleet admirals of both the Atlantic (William J. Fallon) and the Pacific (Walter F. Doran) fleets in charge simultaneously? Fallon and Doran were classmates at Villanova and were both commissioned as ensigns through the Villanova NROTC. The school – or Annapolis North, as it is affectionately known – has done an outstanding job with its program.

— Ken Gerg, Emporium, Pa.

I was very pleased to read the article on ROTC, being a product of that program at Princeton. It was able to maintain a presence on campus throughout the turbulent 1970s and 1980s, and has been a consistent program at Princeton since 1919. It maintained a branch-oriented affiliation with field artillery until around 1960, when it converted to a general military science curriculum. Today Princeton's ROTC enjoys an excellent rapport with the administration and growing enrollment, including satellite schools.

— J.A. Barton Campbell, Richmond, Va.

So the Ivy League is kind enough to welcome back ROTC, after four decades of showing the back of its hand? Forgive me if I'm not grateful. We are finishing a decade-long counter-insurgency. The military desperately needed worldly, brilliant young men and women to lead our counterintelligence fights and "boots on the ground" cultural outreach in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Ivy League is chock full of those young minds. Unfortunately, too many faculties stood on principle – e.g., opposition to "don't ask, don't tell" – instead of pitching in. They had their priorities, and victory wasn't one of them.

Fortunately, though, we didn't need them. Our state university ROTC programs, OCS and the military academies produced top-notch leaders, as they always have. I commend Ivy League ROTC faculty and students who answer their nation's call, even though, to this day, a not insignificant number of their professors view them as something akin to untouchables.

– Donald Smith, Tucson, Ariz.

In the sidebar about celebrities who are ROTC products, it was reported that Kirk Douglas was a member at Notre Dame in 1944. I believe this is a mistake. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in New York in 1939.

– Robert J. Stolarik, Fort Myers, Fla.

Editor's note: Following his time at St. Lawrence, Douglas completed midshipman training at Notre Dame in 1942 and was commissioned as an ensign.

'Why We Went to War in Vietnam'

When I read this article, I was surprised, amazed, disappointed and amused at what I never knew as a soldier just barely 18. My whole reason for being in Vietnam was God, country and apple pie. I had no vision beyond the end of my nose as to what was really going on in the war or in the world. Michael Lind opened my eyes and mind to a whole new perspective on my time in the service.

I was wounded twice and am now 100-percent disabled, as were most of my company and squad members. I thank Lind for his article, and the brave men who were with me in the 1st Infantry Division, 26th Regiment, Charlie Company.

– Bob Bond, Orland, Ind.

Michael Lind's thesis of a proxy war is interesting and very attractive to Vietnam veterans because it provides some meaning for all the deaths and injuries that took place. My concern is that it seems like a made-up, after-the-fact rationalization of the reason for sending so many thousands of young men into a senseless war with no strategic plan for success.

"In Retrospect," Robert McNamara's 1996 mea culpa, mentions nothing about a proxy war. Is it possible that approximately 16,000 Americans died up until he left his position as secretary of defense in 1968, and yet he knew nothing about the proxy war? Or that he knew but remained silent?

– James A. Ralston, Memphis, Tenn.

While Michael Lind's research and historical facts may be accurate, I do not agree with his interpretation. The United States lost the Vietnam War because we did not fight it like a war should be fought: to win.

– Zack Rinderer, Kennewick, Wash.

I thought this article was very interesting and insightful, but Ngo Dinh Diem was assassinated Nov. 2, 1963, not in 1960.

– Wayne McCaughey, Oakland, Md.

While the Paris Peace Conference was convening in 1919, a young Vietnamese man working in a London hotel asked to see President Woodrow Wilson. He was seeking the right of self-determination for the people of Vietnam. His request to submit proposals was denied. His name was Nguyen, later known as Ho Chi Minh.

– David Leo Uelman, Mequon, Wis.

'Honor, Remember, Explore'

I thought your readers might be interested in a video produced by the Association of the United States Army titled "Arlington National Cemetery: Honor Restored," a 14-minute overview of the complete organizational evolution that restored Arlington to its rightful place of honor. The video can be found on AUSA's website, www.ausa.org.

– Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, president, AUSA

Correction: In January's Big Issues, the column by U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., mistakenly included a photo of Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala. We regret the error.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.

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How to Outsmart a Millionaire

Only the "Robin Hood of Watchmakers" can steal the spotlight from a luxury legend for under \$200!

I wasn't looking for trouble. I sat in a café, sipping my espresso and enjoying the quiet. Then it got noisy. Mr. Bigshot rolled up in a roaring high-performance Italian sports car, dropping attitude like his \$14,000 watch made it okay for him to be rude. That's when I decided to roll up my sleeves and teach him a lesson.

"Nice watch," I said, pointing to his and holding up mine. He nodded like we belonged to the same club. We did, but he literally paid 100 times more for his membership. Bigshot bragged about his five-figure purchase, a luxury heavyweight from the titan of high-priced timepieces. I told him that mine was the **Stauer Corso, a 27-jewel automatic classic now available for only \$179.** And just like that, the man was at a loss for words.

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Hard work paying off on veterans job front

The post-9/11 generation of U.S. military veterans has not exactly come home to a sizzling economy. America's slow recovery from recession has made unemployment a major issue across the country during the past five years. For veterans, especially those who are young and newly discharged from service in the global war on terrorism, the problem has been even more severe.

In late 2011, unemployment for veterans ages 18 to 24 was bumping up against 30 percent, and overall veteran unemployment was 13.1 percent, both significantly higher than that of the general population. The American Legion, as it has since the doughboys came home looking for jobs after World War I, is working tirelessly to improve the employment picture for today's veterans, and progress is being made.

By December 2012, unemployment among that youngest group of veterans had fallen more than seven points, to 22.7 percent. The overall veteran unemployment rate fell more than two points, to 10.8 percent, over the same year.

Veteran unemployment continues to exceed that of the general population, but I am confident that the gap will continue to close and rates will continue to decline. The Legion's collaborations with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes program, along with career events by RecruitMilitary, LLC, Military.com, and others are putting veterans to work and simultaneously contributing to the nation's economic recovery.

The American Legion has taken the fight to Washington. We've led the charge to pass legislation that provides tax credits to businesses that hire veterans. We've also worked with government employers, the Teamsters and industry associations to find ways to transfer military experience into credits toward certification and licensing in a variety of trades and specialized professions.

In 2012, The American Legion organized or was directly involved with more than 200 veteran career events nationwide, more than ever. Employers like Microsoft, Amazon.com and Walmart do not just give veterans jobs at these events. They put veterans on career paths. An estimated 7,000 veterans became employed through Hiring Our Heroes job fairs last year.

American Legion posts at the local level contribute facilities, promotions and volunteers at job fairs across the country. According to the Legion's Consolidated Post Report (with only about 62 percent reporting), more than 900 posts had veteran career events last year. In addition to the thousands hired at these events, more than 1,000 others were placed in job-training programs.

As they come home from combat theaters in the Middle East, and from duty stations around the world, our newest veterans deserve nothing less than an opportunity to make a decent living. Many were recruited into the military on such prospects. Over the past decade, Legionnaires have told employers that the most disciplined, team-oriented and dedicated workers on the market are veterans. Finally, statistics are starting to show that the employers are getting the message.



National Commander
James E. Koutz

MEMORANDA

CAREER FAIR CALENDAR

The American Legion provides a thorough list of career fairs offered by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Military.com and RecruitMilitary, LLC, on the national website.

www.legion.org/careers/jobfairs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

In March 1919, U.S. troops still stationed in France after the end of World War I gathered for a meeting to boost morale. That assembly turned into the historic Paris Caucus that established the framework for what would become The American Legion. Posts everywhere celebrate The American Legion Birthday this month and are invited to share their stories on the redesigned Legiontown USA website.

www.legion.org/legiontown

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James E. "Jim" Koutz

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HORACIO "JAMES" BACA

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YEARS: 1989-2007

MOS: Storekeeper

RANK: Senior chief (E-8)

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Watch an interview with James Baca online:

 www.legion.org/magazine



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Reform the Senate filibuster



SUPPORT

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

■ Merkley is a member of the Senate Banking Committee.

Today's Senate has become a graveyard for good ideas. Once the world's greatest deliberative body, it is now possibly the least deliberative. The Senate is broken, and we must fix it.

The heart of the problem is the "silent" filibuster. Currently, a single senator can block a simple up-or-down vote on any amendment, bill or nomination without any effort. He or she simply calls in an objection and can go off to dinner while the senators who want to act wade through procedural waiting periods and try to wrangle a supermajority of 60 to break the stalemate.

This state of dysfunction means delays and gridlock. Recently, the silent filibuster has killed important bills such as the jobs package, campaign donation disclosure, the DREAM Act, pay equity, closing oil loopholes and more.

Since 2007, Harry Reid has faced 391 filibusters as majority leader. Frankly, it's incredible that any legislation passes the Senate.

To make the filibuster once again a useful tool, we should replace the silent filibuster with the "talking" filibuster. This would force filibustering senators to make their case before their colleagues and the public. Senators voting for more debate would actually have to debate.

The talking filibuster would require senators to invest time and energy, thus stripping away a large number of frivolous filibusters. Moreover, it would allow the public to decide whether those employing the filibuster are heroes or bums – and to encourage their senators to break the gridlock.

The beauty of this approach, the kind of filibuster Jimmy Stewart's character uses in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," is that this is the way the American people already think filibusters work. Let's make it so.



OPPOSE

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo.

■ Blunt is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As history has shown, there is no better time to solve big problems than when we have a divided government. A government controlled by both parties means that members on both sides of the aisle must share in the political responsibility for making difficult decisions.

At a time when we face more than \$16 trillion in federal debt and need to rein in out-of-control spending, we have a chance to address some of the big challenges

facing America. Yet instead of passing responsible budgets and spending bills, Democratic leaders in the Senate are trying to change the rules and silence the almost one-half of the country represented by Republicans. Instead of reaching across the aisle, they're attempting to build a wall.

By design of the Constitution, the Senate is supposed to moderate a rush to judgment. Allowing the minority party to exercise its rights to debate and amend legislation should be the rule, not the exception it has become in recent years.

Senate rules say that it takes 67 senators to change the rules. Thus, launching the so-called nuclear option means breaking the rules to change them. It's no wonder that a number of Democrats have spoken out against this kind of power grab over the years – including Majority Leader Harry Reid, who pledged in December 2006 "to run the Senate with respect for the rules and for the minority rights the rules protect."

Now Reid and other Democrats who once blasted such a partisan power grab are trying to break the rules to further marginalize the minority's voices and the constituents we represent.

Washington needs to function properly and work together to move this country forward. We need more transparency, more bipartisanship and more – not less – leadership.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

The filibuster is regarded by some as protection of the minority against simple majority rule. Others say its abuse is holding up needed legislation.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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– Carol K., Benbrook, TX



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Take action on asthma

BY JUDITH HURLEY

For a person suffering an asthma attack, the experience can be frightening – some describe it as feeling like someone was sitting on their chests, or like they were breathing through a straw and couldn't get enough air. Others say they felt suffocated and panicky. Preventing such attacks – and the 1.9 million emergency-room visits they lead to each year – is a key goal of asthma treatment.

According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, asthma is a chronic lung disease for which there is no cure. With proper diagnosis and treatment, however, most people can manage asthma and improve their quality of life.

■ **Identify and avoid asthma triggers.** Allergies, chemical irritants, exercise and cold air can cause airways to narrow, swell and become clogged with mucus, aggravating asthma. If you don't know what sets off your symptoms, your doctor may be able to help you identify triggers.

People with asthma often have allergies to pet dander, dust mites, cockroaches, fungi and molds, or pollen. To control asthma symptoms, you may need to keep pets out

of the bedroom, encase mattresses and pillows in plastic protectors to limit exposure to dust mites, control mold in bathrooms and other damp areas, or wear a pollen mask or avoid the outdoors when pollen counts are high.

Asthmatic lungs are sensitive to chemical irritants, so avoid harsh household cleaning products, paints, solvents, secondhand cigarette smoke, diesel exhaust and other fumes. Stay inside when local air-pollutant levels are high.

To cope with exercise-induced asthma, your doctor may advise taking a few puffs of quick-relief medicine just before you start. To prevent symptoms triggered by cold air, put a scarf or special cold-weather mask over your mouth to warm the air before it reaches your lungs.

■ **Take long-term control medication.** Most people with asthma keep "quick-relief" medication on hand for when symptoms suddenly worsen. But because the lungs of people with persistent asthma are chronically inflamed, many need daily long-term control medicine to dampen inflammation. Studies show that up to 50 percent of them don't take this medication as prescribed, resulting in more frequent flare-ups, ER visits and hospitalizations.

■ **Have an asthma action plan.** This is a written plan that lists signs and symptoms indicating a flare-up. It provides instructions, including the dose and timing of medications, to help you quickly control symptoms. The plan also includes the telephone numbers of your physician, ambulance transportation and people who can help in an emergency. It's especially important that children have asthma action plans for use by school nurses, teachers or other adults. If you don't have a written plan, ask your doctor to help you put one together.

Judith S. Hurley is a freelance writer specializing in health and medicine.

Asthma by the numbers

18.7 million | Americans with asthma

14.8 percent | Increase in the number of people with asthma between 2001 and 2010

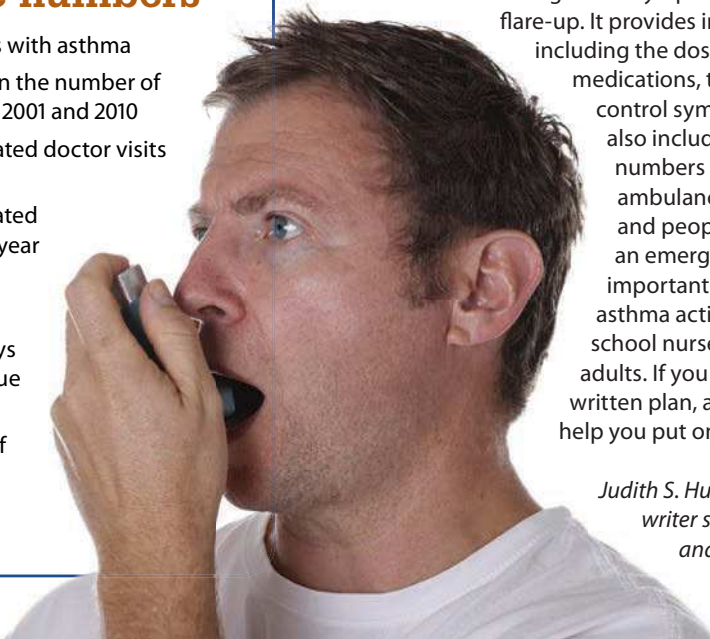
8.9 million | Asthma-related doctor visits every year

1.9 million | Asthma-related emergency room visits every year

479,300 | Asthma-related hospitalizations per year

10.5 million | School days missed per year by children due to asthma

14.2 million | Number of work days missed per year by adults due to asthma



Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.



Media Bakery

The journal *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics* reports on a Greek study that suggests drinking Coca-Cola may help alleviate gastrointestinal clogging caused by indigestible parts of plants such as skins and seeds. The soda's phosphoric and carbonic acids seem to help dissolve the masses. In half the cases Greek gastroenterologists treated as part of the study, Coca-Cola alone dissolved the masses.

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Disasters and health

Severe weather – tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods or other natural disasters – can strike at any time of the year. In the immediate aftermath, the first instinct is probably to sift through and reclaim whatever you can of your home or possessions, while helping family, friends and neighbors do the same.

The aftermath of a disaster, though, can pose numerous risks to your health and safety. Here are some simple tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to keep in mind as you work to get things back to normal.

- **Drink plenty of fluids.**
- **Be sure to get proper care if you are injured, sick or feeling stressed.**
- **Clean and disinfect, and practice good hygiene, to avoid illness from bacteria, viruses, mold and mildew.**
- **Use gas and propane devices outside and away from doors, windows and air vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.**
- **Protect yourself from potentially dangerous insects and animals, and their remains.**
- **Keep food and drinking water safe. Follow directions on boiling or stick to bottled water.**
- **If water is not available, use alcohol-based products made for washing hands.**

Disinfect water

It is critical to disinfect water used for hand washing before handling food and after using the toilet, cleaning, and touching anything that's touched floodwater or sewage.

Mix $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of household bleach per 1 gallon of water.

Let stand for 30 minutes.

If the water is cloudy, use a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of bleach per 1 gallon of water.

What you MIGHT pick up in a relief shelter

- Short bouts of diarrhea and upset stomach
- Colds or other breathing diseases

What you likely WON'T pick up in a relief shelter

- Cholera
- Typhoid

Body's chemicals trigger overeating, study finds

Why do we indulge in that fudge brownie or extra scoop of ice cream when we already feel full? Blame it on evolution.

In a recent study, Italian researchers found that participants who had eaten a satisfying meal experienced the release of certain appetite and "reward" hormones when chocolate cake or another favorite food was put on the table. These chemicals appear to override other signals in the brain that tell us we shouldn't keep eating.

This evolutionary trait helped us survive in the past when food was scarce. But in a modern environment where plenty of tasty food is within our reach, these hard-wired chemical "pleasure" pathways encourage us to eat too much and become obese, researchers claim.

To shed pounds, hit the road

"People who want to lose weight are better off running than lifting weights," the *Los Angeles Times* reports, citing a new study by Duke University researchers.

Participants were assigned to one of three groups: resistance training of three days a week or about 180 minutes, aerobic training of about 12 miles a week or about 133 minutes, or both. Those who participated in aerobic training and aerobic-plus-resistance training lost more weight than those who did just resistance training. The resistance training group gained weight due to an increase in lean body mass.

"Our study suggests that aerobic exercise is the best option for reducing fat mass and body mass," said Cris A. Slentz, who co-authored the study. "It's not that resistance training isn't good for you. It's just not very good at burning fat."



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New law takes aim at GI Bill profiteering

BY TOM PHILPOTT

The Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit is worth \$70,000 in tuition payments alone, even ignoring “yellow ribbon” enhancements for students attending more exclusive universities. Toss in the monthly stipend tied to local rents and the annual book allowance, and the total value of the new GI Bill can exceed \$140,000 in high-cost areas.

Given that value and the benefit’s importance to veterans and families in launching their post-service lives, Congress has approved a few new tools to help student veterans be better consumers in the education market.

The Improving Transparency of Education Opportunities for Veterans Act, signed by President Barack Obama on Jan. 10, enhances through statute some of the reforms and added protections for GI Bill users that Obama sought to secure through an executive order last April.

The law now directs the VA secretary to develop a comprehensive policy and a one-stop website offering the best available information on education choices to GI Bill users, including costs and fees, accreditation, credit transferability, graduation rates, loan default rates and job-placement success rates.

Obama’s Executive Order 13607 set new rules for allowing institutions to gain access to military bases, banning those that use deceptive marketing practices. It also promised trademark protection for terms like “GI Bill” and “military-friendly” to prevent their use on what appear to be government-endorsed websites.

A key provision of the new law directs VA to not approve for GI Bill payment any college or school offering recruiters bonuses for signing up students with GI Bill benefits. These bonuses are already barred for attracting students eligible for federal financial aid and Pell grants, so the targets now are the worst actors among for-profit schools that pitch their curriculums exclusively to students eligible for the GI Bill.

The “transparency” law began as a collaboration between the higher-education community and veterans organizations, including The American Legion. Partners include the American Council on Education, representing public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities, and the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU), representing for-profit schools.

Steve Gonzalez, assistant director of the Legion’s Economic Division, said the new law is a “good first step” for protecting GI Bill users, giving them the means to make better choices in identifying quality education products vs. those that could leave them short of reaching their goals.

The Legion and other veterans groups recognize that not all problems and abuses have involved for-profit

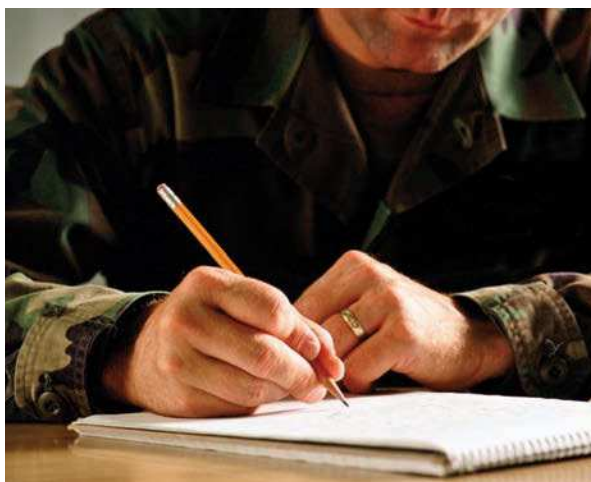
institutions. Some traditional colleges have added single courses to lure veterans to poor-quality curricula, or have aggressively recruited out-of-state veterans for GI Bill dollars.

“We are continuing to look at other vehicles to provide an extra layer of oversight or enforcement to ensure we can protect student veterans on all fronts,” Gonzalez said. “This was not a free pass for anyone. This was a way to assess what a school is doing (and) the quality of the product being delivered.”

Sally Stroup, ASPCU’s vice president for government relations, said that student veterans “need to know when they enroll in a college what they can expect as far as fees and graduation and placement.” The new law will do “a better job getting good information into the hands of students.”

It also requires VA to set up a process for sharing feedback from students on their education experiences good and bad, Stroup noted.

Tom Philpott, a former Coast Guardsman, has written about veterans and military personnel issues for more than 30 years.



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The Mysteries of Tonkin Gulf

Declassified documents, other records reveal inconsistencies in the sequence of events leading to U.S. entry in the Vietnam War.

BY JOHN PRADOS

The Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964 proved to be America's key entry point to war in Vietnam. The encounter sparked the first open fighting between the United States and North Vietnam, the first U.S. bombing of the North and an intensification of U.S. support for South Vietnam. It led to congressional passage of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which became the legal justification for America's entry in the war. As with so much about Vietnam, events in the Gulf of Tonkin were not what they seemed at the time, and the consequences proved enormous. Even after five decades, we still struggle to understand what happened at the Gulf of Tonkin and why.

Things seemed clear-cut at the time. During the afternoon of Aug. 2, 1964, the U.S. destroyer *Maddox* was steaming in the Gulf of Tonkin – waters of the South China Sea between the coast of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (i.e., North Vietnam) and the Chinese island of Hainan – when it came under attack from North Vietnamese torpedo boats. *Maddox* retreated down the gulf, where the destroyer *C. Turner Joy* joined it. Both ships headed back north in company.

On the night of Aug. 4, the warships, particularly *C. Turner Joy*, reported renewed attacks against them. President Lyndon B. Johnson, denouncing “hostile actions against United States ships on the high seas,” ordered retaliatory bombing against North Vietnamese naval bases. Sixty-four planes from the aircraft carriers *Ticonderoga* and *Constellation* attacked the North in what was called Operation Pierce Arrow. Two aircraft were shot down and one pilot – Lt. j.g. Everett Alvarez Jr. – was captured, becoming the first U.S. prisoner to be held by the North Vietnamese in Hanoi (the body of the other pilot lost, Lt. j.g. Richard C. Sather, was repatriated in 1985). Johnson asked Congress for a joint resolution approving his orders. Passed almost unanimously in the heat of the affair, this became the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, and its open-ended sanction of “all necessary measures to repel any armed attack ... and to prevent further aggression” became a crucial legal underpinning of the entire U.S. effort in the Vietnam War.

DOUBTS AND SECRECY. In subsequent years – even while the fighting in Vietnam still raged – many aspects of the original account came into question. The first important element to come under scrutiny was the question of provocation for the North Vietnamese attack on Aug. 2. Senior administration officials, from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara on down, testified in hearings on the Tonkin Gulf Resolution that the U.S. warships had been in international waters and exercising free passage, their cruise unrelated to anything else. Certain “South Vietnamese” commando raids, “if there were any” (per McNamara’s testimony), were unknown aboard *Maddox*.

But suspicions to the contrary arose. By 1966, advocates were calling for a repeal of the resolution. Increasing doubts and political pressures led to new hearings in 1968, during which McNamara admitted that *Maddox* had been operating in close proximity to the commando raids, which he now represented as of South Vietnamese origin. The

Tonkin Gulf Resolution was repealed in 1970; Johnson repeated the story of the “South Vietnamese” raids in his 1971 memoir.

Secrecy surrounding these events gradually unraveled. *Maddox*, it turned out, had been on a mission specifically aimed at collecting intelligence on North Vietnamese communications and coastal radars. Then it emerged that *Maddox*, though in international waters when it fought off the North Vietnamese torpedo boats, had been in territorial seas when the Vietnamese patrol craft left base to intercept it. The commando raids had not been South Vietnamese after all, but attacks using indigenous troops, unilaterally controlled by the U.S. special operations command in Vietnam. The strikes that took place during the *Maddox* cruise were partly intended to trigger the North Vietnamese to activate their nets so that the United States could record them. The 1971 leak of the Pentagon Papers revealed that the attacks themselves formed part of an extensive program of “graduated military pressures” against the North called OPLAN 34A. When audiotapes of Johnson’s telephone conversations on these days were declassified in the late 1990s, those with McNamara showed that both were aware of the connection between the *Maddox* mission and the coastal raids from the very beginning.

Hanoi’s choices obviously factored into the incident. Johnson based his decision for retaliatory bombing on an assumption that the North Vietnamese intended a confrontation in the gulf. The release in the late 1970s of the memoranda recording Johnson’s meetings on this decision show that CIA Director John McCone assured the president that Hanoi had sought battle. But the CIA had no direct evidence at the time. A postwar Vietnamese official history attributes their response to the general staff and the naval command, not the North Vietnamese leadership. Similarly, senior Vietnamese officials told the U.S. delegation at a 1997 conference on “missed opportunities” in the Vietnam War that the dispatch of torpedo boats on Aug. 2 had been at the initiative of local commanders. This formula disguised the hand of the Vietnamese general staff but also contained the sense that no national decision to fight the Americans was made.

NO EVIDENCE. By far the deepest mystery of the Tonkin Gulf concerns the “second attack,” the notion that on the night of Aug. 4 the North Vietnamese came back to fight *Maddox* and *C. Turner Joy* together. It was this allegation of

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*BAKALAR, NICHOLAS. "Watch Your Step While Washing Up." New York Times 16, Aug. 2011, New York Edition ed., Section D sec.: D7. Web **CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention



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Aug. 2, 1964

North Vietnamese torpedo boats execute an attack against the destroyer *Maddox* as it gathers intelligence in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin. The destroyer, and Fighter Squadron 51 F-8 Crusaders from the carrier *Ticonderoga*, severely damage the trio of boats.

Aug. 4, 1964

The destroyers *Maddox* and *Turner Joy* suspect they are attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats while operating at night in the Gulf of Tonkin. They return fire on the radar contacts.

Aug. 5, 1964

President Lyndon Johnson orders Operation Pierce Arrow, a series of 64 strike sorties from the aircraft carriers *Ticonderoga* and *Constellation* against petroleum storage facilities at Vinh and naval forces at Lach Chao, Quang Khe, Ben Thuy and Hon Gai. Enemy antiaircraft guns shoot down an A-1H Skyraider fighter flown by Lt. j.g. Richard Sather, killing him, and an A-4 Skyhawk bomber flown by Lt. j.g. Everett Alvarez Jr., who spends the next eight years in communist captivity.

Source: "The Vietnam War: A Chronology of War"

North
Vietnam

China

Gulf of
Tonkin

Hainan

USS *Maddox*

USS *C. Turner Joy*

USS *Constellation*

USS *Ticonderoga*

a repeated attack in the face of U.S. warnings that underpinned the retaliation. But unlike the sea battle of Aug. 2, there was no physical evidence for this engagement. The destroyers had maneuvered to avoid torpedoes, and Lt. Cmdr. Robert C. Barnhart Jr.'s *C. Turner Joy* pumped out more than 370 5-inch and 3-inch shells, yet there were no photos of attack boats, no shells hitting the ships, no prolonged observation of an enemy. Capt. John Herrick reported an initial radar contact. After that, *Maddox* dispatches recorded a mélange of sonar and radar contacts. When the ship trained its guns on the most solid of these, the vessel in the cross hairs was *C. Turner Joy*. Barnhart's destroyer detected nothing on sonar, not even the torpedo some of his sailors said they saw.

As the on-scene naval commander, Herrick sent a dispatch warning against premature action – he and *Maddox*'s skipper, Cmdr. Herbert L. Ogier, doubted the authenticity of everything except the initial radar contact. Aircraft scrambled from *Constellation* and *Ticonderoga* also failed to spot anything, and when vectored to attack by the destroyers, found only the U.S. warships beneath them when they rolled in.

It turned out to be Washington on a hair trigger. The Johnson-McNamara telephone tapes show the president and defense secretary mulling over bombing targets before the alleged attack was even reported. This was possible due to National Security Agency (NSA) communications intercepts – and therein lies another tale. When the very first sighting report arrived, Washington and the Pacific Fleet presumed the expected attack and

made their strike plans. McNamara and Johnson discussed specific targets before any meetings took place.

But the intelligence was wrong. NSA had pulled down a series of North Vietnamese messages related to the Aug. 2 attack, and a few between Aug. 2-4 pertained to making patrol, not torpedo, boats ready for sea. The volume of North Vietnamese communications decreased after Aug. 2, sighting and position reports disappeared from this traffic, and the patrol boat intercept could be interpreted as relating to sending someone to rescue survivors from the first engagement. A North Vietnamese naval officer captured in 1966 said under interrogation that he had been the senior deputy to the enemy torpedo boat commander. He had vivid recollections of the first fight, but insisted there was no battle on Aug. 4.

The NSA's listening posts in the region included one at Phu Bai in Vietnam, another in the Philippines, and the special van installed aboard *Maddox* for the cruise. The Philippines base had decoded its intercepts and reported them in a timely fashion, but the Phu Bai base was delayed and reported late – in fact, during the time frame of the alleged second attack. Washington officials compiling communications intelligence summaries assumed that the late Phu Bai intercepts were up-to-the-minute reporting and included them as such. They did not check with *Maddox*, which itself recorded no messages indicating a renewed attack. In addition, one dispatch that analysts at Phu Bai decided was the attack order for Aug. 4 contained decoding and translation errors and was

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intercepted by no one except that station. Washington officials either did not notice or did not care that the messages corresponded to the actual events of Aug. 2, or that North Vietnamese *Swa-tow*-type patrol boats were not armed with torpedoes and lacked speed to maneuver as indicated in the destroyers' spot updates on the wild night of Aug. 4. They also discounted Herrick's warning dispatch. Johnson retaliated, and North Vietnam and the United States moved closer to war.

ESCALATION. NSA post-mortems in late 1964 cast some doubt on the chronology but hewed to the official line. Deputy Director Louis Tordella satisfied himself by the early 1970s that a mistake had been made, as did CIA intelligence chief Ray Cline. The Senate's Foreign Relations Committee staff director, Carl Marcy, also discovered the discrepancies. Yet they remained concealed for a very long time. In 2005 and 2006, the NSA finally declassified full texts of the most important intercepts, revealing the chronological transpositions in its messages. The agency's official history on Vietnam, declassified in 2007, examines the evidence and concludes that there was no incident in the Gulf of Tonkin on Aug. 4, 1964. The NSA also released the full record of its Tonkin Gulf messages, demonstrating how reporting from Phu Bai differed from other intercept stations. In the meantime, at the "missed opportunities" conference in 1997, North Vietnamese Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap openly told McNamara that Vietnam had never made any second attack.

The most important effects of this episode were in Hanoi and Washington. Shortly after the incident, the North Vietnamese sent an infiltration group to South Vietnam that, for the first time, stayed together as a unit instead of dispersing among the National Liberation Front as cadres. While it was true that Hanoi decided in December 1963 to increase its support for the insurgency in the South, it had not previously committed regular army formations. In the fall of 1964, Hanoi decided to send a full regular infantry division to the South as a constituted force. The 325th Division began preparatory training for this move about September 1964. For the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Tonkin Gulf provided evidence that the United States was determined to wage a full-scale war. Hanoi moved to meet that challenge.

In Washington, as the Pentagon Papers first documented, top officials had struggled for months to contrive a scenario making it politically feasible to broaden the U.S. effort in Vietnam. Part of that

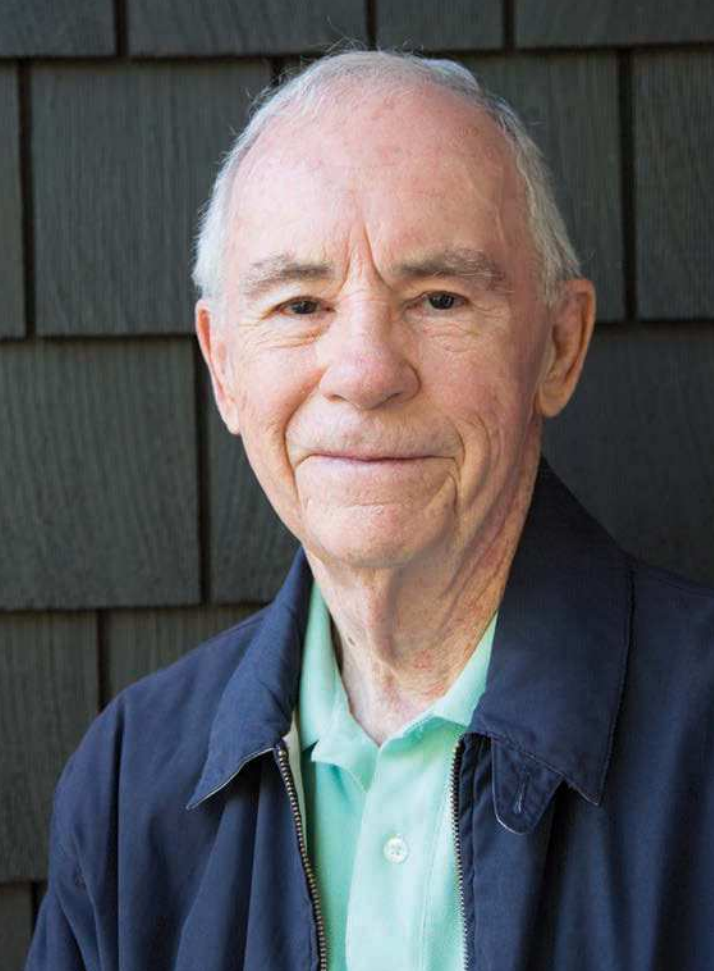
was to obtain congressional approval. An inter-agency working group had written several drafts for a proposed resolution. The Tonkin incident became the perfect opportunity. The White House sent its draft resolution to Capitol Hill the night of the Pierce Arrow attacks; it passed Aug. 7.

Johnson's concern for "the scenario" and his careful search for political cover reflect his determination to press ahead in Vietnam but not the misgivings he also expressed, or his ambitious plans for social legislation. The president had acquired a stake in Vietnam policy. Like his predecessor, John F. Kennedy, the seeming inability of the South Vietnamese allies to progress against the National Liberation Front frustrated him. U.S. military capability and expertise appeared to be the solution. But Johnson still thought that Vietnam could be fought on the side without impacting his domestic goals. That turned out to be a major error.

During August 1964, shortly after the incident, the United States sent B-57 jet bombers to Da Nang and Bien Hoa, and also deployed F-100 and F-102 jet fighters to Vietnam. Air Force personnel in South Vietnam increased by nearly 20 percent, while the overall U.S. force level – which had held steady for half a year – swelled from 16,500 to 23,300 between June and December. The B-57s at Bien Hoa offered the target for a spectacular commando raid that November, helping persuade Johnson to escalate still further.

Today, the Gulf of Tonkin reminds us that small events can have enormous consequences. Only one American died – Sather during Pierce Arrow – as well as a small number of North Vietnamese sailors. But the bombing gave the war new intensity. It also challenged the North to strike directly at Americans, as Hanoi did starting with Bien Hoa. And the Tonkin Gulf Resolution would be stretched beyond its context to cover a commitment that no one except the war managers foresaw. Events can be crucial not just for their intrinsic importance, but also as a hinge for the plans and purposes of others, and for what an adversary might conclude from them. Americans in Vietnam, and since, would have to relearn that lesson. 🌿

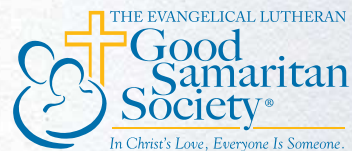
John Prados is a historian based in Washington. He is a senior fellow and director of the Vietnam Documentation Project of the National Security Archive. His current book is "Islands of Destiny: The Solomons Campaign and the Eclipse of the Rising Sun" (NAL Caliber).



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Operation Comfort Warriors delivers rehabilitation equipment, entertainment and smiles to wounded and ill servicemembers.

During his 19-year career in two stints with the Army, Sgt. 1st Class Ron Speilmann ran marathons. That all came to a sudden halt when he tore the meniscus in his right knee during a spring training exercise at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, near Tacoma, Wash., in 2011.

Even with a knee replacement, Speilmann, 51, remained sidelined. "I couldn't walk, and I was gaining weight," he says. "My leg didn't like to bear weight."

Then he came across a flier promoting a bicycling program through his Warrior Transition Battalion and decided to give it a try. Speilmann couldn't use a recumbent bicycle because of a back injury he sustained during a deployment to Iraq. Instead, he

did a lap around the parking lot with a hand cycle.

"I came back and said, 'That's great,'" Speilmann recalls. "Then the physical therapist flipped off the parking brake, and I went twice as fast. I was hooked."

The bikes are just a few of the gifts donated through The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program. OCW and its predecessor, Operation Landstuhl, have turned hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations into comfort items and recreational experiences for U.S. military personnel. OCW donations are used to purchase items that assist wounded and ill servicemembers in military hospitals and transition units. OCW funds also support Heroes to Hometowns.



Photo by Scott Spiker



**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Jason Sterling**

Age: 37

Hometown: Tacoma, Wash.

Injury: Sterling tore his Achilles tendon while training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The gift: OCW donated hand cycles at the base so that soldiers recovering from leg injuries have another tool for rehabilitation.

"I can't run, and walking is pretty hard. The hand cycle gives me the ability to get a cardio workout. It's a really good workout for your arms and shoulders. And it's a relief – I can overcome my injury by being active."

**Army Sgt. 1st Class
Ron Speilmann**

Age: 51

Hometown: Eagle, Idaho

Injury: Speilmann fractured his back in a fall while deployed to Iraq. He also tore the meniscus in his right knee during training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and had a knee replacement.

The gift: OCW donated hand cycles at the base so that soldiers suffering from back and knee injuries could regain their strength and participate in cardiovascular exercise.

"I can't run marathons anymore. Hand cycling has given me the ability to get out and be active again. It's just cool to know you can go the distance with this, and there's no age limit. It's what you put into it."



HOW TO DONATE

Gifts for recovering servicemembers are provided through The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) fundraising program. Donations to OCW are used to purchase items and provide recreational trips for wounded servicemembers and their families in military hospitals and warrior transition units in the United States and overseas. OCW funds also provide resources or assistance via Heroes to Hometowns for injured servicemembers as they transition back to their communities.

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OCW has provided a variety of gifts, based on each facility's needs: exercise equipment, fishing and kayaking gear, special clothing for burn victims, CDs, DVDs, Wii games and art supplies.

And, of course, recumbent bikes and the hand cycles used by Speilmann, who now rides 10 to 15 miles a day and has taken 45-mile treks. He's lost 22 pounds. Now he's saving money for his own racing cycle.

"It's saved me," he says of the OCW-purchased hand cycle. "I like the camaraderie of the other soldiers who I ride with. It's got me moving again. That's what I needed."

Helping warriors get back on their feet is a primary goal of OCW.

"We must not turn our backs on the men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedoms, our security and our way of life," says American Legion National Commander Jim Koutz, who chose OCW as his primary fundraising program. "As they recover from various injuries and illnesses, we must take responsibility for their care. OCW is a wonderful complement to the medical care and military support that our recovering servicemembers receive."

When Koutz was elected commander, he announced an OCW fundraising goal of \$500,000.

"Every dollar counts," he says. "Every dollar goes to helping a serviceman or woman who needs our support. I've been overwhelmed by the generosity of Legionnaires and others I've met in my travels who hand over donations and send their gratitude to our troops."

Those donations and rounds of thanks are

delivered regularly to recovering servicemembers.

In January, nearly \$30,000 worth of donations were distributed to warrior transition units in Kentucky and Georgia. At Fort Knox, the gifts included an OCW first: Segways, the slow-speed personal motorized transportation device.

"The Segways will be used to take soldiers back and forth to medical appointments at the hospital," says Lt. Col. Dwight Lewis, commanding officer of the Fort Knox Warrior Transition Battalion. "We have a big courtyard and the Segways will make life easier for the soldiers, plus they will have fun getting to where they need to go."

For Legionnaires, such donations are just one way they can show their support for servicemembers in their communities.

"Any time you reach out to the soldiers, you are giving other veterans a reason to join The American Legion," says Peter Trzop, commander of Old Kentucky Home Post 121 in Bardstown. "When you do stuff for soldiers and their spouses, you build trust. They know you're legit. They know you're there for them."

Steering Committee. Recently, OCW has attracted the attention of a top competitor in the professional rodeo circuit. Steer wrestler Trevor Knowles, a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 77 in John Day, Ore., wears patches bearing the OCW logo and website when he competes.

"I like people to be aware of what's going on in support of our veterans," says Knowles, whose father, Jeff, is a Vietnam War veteran. "It's important for me to support the veterans because these

Army Lt. Col. Michael Yates

Age: 57

Hometown: Bristolville, Ohio

Injury: Yates fractured a kneecap and damaged his neck while running to take cover from incoming mortar fire in Iraq.

The gift: OCW donated yoga mats so injured troops could regain their range of motion and flexibility.

"They did surgery on my foot, surgery on both knees, and they rebuilt part of my neck. It took a year. Then the physical therapist told me, 'You can only do three things – yoga, tai chi or archery.' I said, 'OK, I'll try yoga.' It's amazing how much yoga has helped my whole body with a combination of stretching and moving my muscles. I've gone from a wheelchair to crutches to a cane, and now shoe supports and a knee brace. I love going to yoga class. They make you feel good about yourself."



Photo by Scott Spiker

are people who put themselves in harm's way every day to allow me to do what I do every day. I think that they need and deserve as much support as possible."

Jeff Knowles, whose health has been ravaged by Agent Orange exposure, is currently awaiting a kidney transplant.

"I've had a firsthand look at how war can affect people and their families," Trevor says. "I can see how hard it can be, and how having some help can really be beneficial to people."

A nine-time Wrangler National Finals Rodeo competitor, Trevor is among the top names in his sport, having won the 2012 Calgary Stampede championship. He has earned more than \$1 million competing and has pledged a portion of his future corporate sponsorship earnings to OCW.

Meanwhile, his father is impressed by his son's rodeo accomplishments and his unwavering support of veterans.

"I think a lot of it comes with my service and what happened to me, because it hasn't been a cakewalk since I got out," Jeff says. "He understands that it is not a cakewalk for a whole bunch of guys who are coming home now or were coming home then."

"It means the world." Some veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are healing from physical wounds of war, such as severe burns and broken bones. Others need treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Still others return with viruses wreaking havoc on their immune systems.

No matter the injury or illness, OCW gifts can play a valuable role in the healing process.

First Sgt. Steven Elzy, 55, knows the physical toll of service firsthand. The Plainfield, Ind., infantry soldier is recovering from multiple overseas deployments, including one to Afghanistan with the Indiana National Guard in 2004 and 2005 that included several combat missions.

"The gear load is about 125 pounds on a good day," Elzy says. "My knees are worn out. They are telling me that I may need to get a knee replacement. I have a lower back injury. It's just wear and tear."

Elzy belongs to the Fort Knox Warrior Transition Battalion, and says the donated Segways will help more than just troops recovering from leg injuries.

"I was sort of wondering about them as I saw them come in," he says. "Then I considered that TBI is a very serious injury. You have a lot of fellow soldiers with TBI. I can see the far-reaching adaptations in the adaptive physical therapy programs, where these would be very good. I can see them being in a gym complex where the soldiers are learning balance again and being able to operate them."

The generosity by those making donations is recognized by the troops on the receiving end.

"It means the world because one of the things we're constantly looking for as a soldier is to get our lives back to as much normal as we can within society and with our families," Elzy says. 🌿

Ken Olsen, Henry Howard and John Raughter contributed to this report.

Spc. Jenny Urbano

Age: 32

Hometown:
Clarksville, Ky.

Injury:

Doctors still aren't clear about what happened to Urbano. "The most they can tell me is that I got a virus," she says. "It got in my autoimmune system, so now I am having problems with my digestive system, my blood pressure, temperature, insomnia."

The gift: OCW donated Wii games and exercise equipment to Fort Campbell's Warrior Transition Unit.

"It gives you that hope that it's not just about the problems you have. Even for the people like me who aren't going to get better, the gifts make it a little easier to get out of the monotony of the day."



Marine Cpl. Grant Schick

Age: 25

Hometown:
Toledo, Ohio

Injury:

Schick's knees, ankles, and left shoulder and arm were immobilized by reactive arthritis as a result of a gastrointestinal infection he contracted while deployed to Afghanistan.

The gift: OCW donated kayaking equipment to Wounded Warrior Battalion West so Marines could regain strength and mobility and reduce stress.

"Kayaking helped me develop my shoulder again. It helped me get my rotation back. It helped me get my range of motion back, and it helped me build up muscle. And just being out and around people really does help a lot. Because of the physical therapy, I can walk normally again. I can jog, I can work out. I can function again."



'To see if I can help in some way'

Professional rodeo star backs Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors.

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

Rodeo champion Trevor Knowles and his father, Jeff, a Vietnam War veteran, recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about their love for the sport and support of the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program.

How did you get involved in rodeo?

Trevor Knowles: I was born and raised in a ranching family. My dad rodeoed, my uncle rodeoed ... it was just kind of one of those things that was always around. I played baseball and wrestled. I did everything. It wasn't until I got to college that I focused on rodeo and made a career out of it. I've been doing it ever since. Ten years now.

Why bulldogging? That's one of the hardest events.

Trevor: I like challenges, and I like contact sports. And you get the best of both worlds there.

How did growing up with a veteran father in a rodeo environment lead you to support Operation Comfort Warriors?

Trevor: Just growing up with a rodeo family, for one, is tougher than most families, I'd say. And then you have a veteran on top of that, so you just double down. So you get to see the ups and downs of life in general and learn how to deal with it. And you can see how difficult that can be, which is why I decided to get involved – to see if I can help in some way.

Jeff, how has your military service affected you personally?

Jeff Knowles: It's hard to explain. I've

got my share of illnesses because of it. And I'm still struggling with it 40 years out. If I think about it a lot, it makes me bitter sometimes. But other than that, I was proud to go ... but glad to get home.

How important is it to raise awareness for OCW, as Trevor is doing?

Jeff: I think Operation Comfort Warriors is great, and the rodeo is a great venue to promote it because you have a lot of people who are behind the military 100 percent.

What was your competitive rodeo background?

Jeff: I roped calves, and I bulldogged – steer wrestled and rode bulls, bareback horses.

What has it been like watching Trevor succeed in this sport?

Jeff: It's been fun. I started teaching him how to do this stuff when he was little. I consider myself a good teacher. I must have taught him something half-right to have him here (Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas) nine times in a row.

It's phenomenal to be here nine straight times. That doesn't happen very often, I believe. You look at the list, and I think there's four guys here that have been here as much as that or more. There's just a certain level. There's a pinnacle, and if you get close to the pinnacle then you show up here. When you rodeo, you rodeo on your own dime. It's not like a sports team, where (players) get on the team plane and they fly you to Frisco (Even

those who don't play) still get their money. (Those who) rodeo on their own dime pay their own expenses, so it's not a cheap sport.

What should Legionnaires know about the rodeo circuit?

Jeff: It's probably one of the toughest jobs that you could ever get into. I personally feel that the athletes that get into this arena are as good as any athlete walking on this planet, in any sport.

Trevor, how many days are you on the road?

Trevor: Quite a few. I go to 75 rodeos a year, give or take a few. Traveling nonstop. We're on the road 260-something days a year. Once you get started, there's really no quitting ... and then all of a sudden you get a couple of weeks off here and then it's right back out. It's a full-time job.

Why did you pursue a career in professional rodeo?

Trevor: It's more a way of life. I was born into it, I guess. If you do your job, great. There's big paydays. There are just no guarantees. So if I go out there and stub my toe and don't perform well, I don't make any money. I think that's why you see so much heart and grit in every cowboy. If they don't win, they don't eat. That's why guys compete with injuries. A severe injury to us is a bone sticking through the skin. A lot of guys (in other sports) twist an ankle and they're out for six months making a million. If we twist an ankle, we just get some tape and go with it.



Photo by Eldon Lindsay

See a photo gallery from the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas: www.legion.org/magazine

\$30 Billion in Bankruptcy Trust Funds were set aside for victims of Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma

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THE WILL TO DRILL

If the United States embraces its own petroleum reserves, North America could become the new Middle East.

BY ALAN W. DOWD

There are many causes for the painful rise in oil and gasoline prices in recent years.

Oil is a global commodity serving a global market, and global demand is rising – especially in China and India.

Markets are jittery about what's happening across the oil-rich Middle East. The Arab Spring revolutions took Libyan oil off the market in 2011 and triggered deep concerns about the ability of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil producers to weather the storm.

Indeed, a number of questions surround petro-superpower Saudi Arabia. A series of deaths in the Saudi royal family raised concerns about a succession crisis in the world's oil safety net; equally troubling are leaked diplomatic cables suggesting Saudi officials' worry that the kingdom's reserves may be overstated by 40 percent.

Elsewhere, international sanctions have taken a healthy portion of Iran's oil off the market. A jihadist insurgency is buffeting Nigeria, which accounts for 8 percent of U.S. oil imports. And in places like California, refinery capacity issues sent prices into the stratosphere. Add it all up, and the result is pain at the pump.

But the United States need not be held hostage by the vagaries of this global market, or the whims of petrocrats, speculators and jihadists. It's time to tap into this country's vast – yes, vast – petroleum reserves.

Centuries of Supply. Just how vast are these reserves? For that matter, are they even real? After all, politicians talk about America's untapped energy wealth in such vague terms that the notion of U.S. energy independence – or, at the least, decreased dependence on the unstable sources of oil mentioned above – seems more like a desert mirage than an attainable goal.

The numbers suggest a very real, very attainable future of energy security for the United States.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that the Arctic holds some 90 billion barrels of oil – more than Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Mexico combined. About one-third of the oil is in Alaskan territory. Another USGS study concludes that North Dakota and Montana have an estimated 3 billion to 4.3 billion barrels of recoverable oil. In the U.S. swath of the Gulf of Mexico, BP estimates that a new reserve could yield 6 billion barrels of oil, and Chevron has found an oil field with some 15 billion barrels. The American Petroleum Institute (API) reports that opening up new offshore areas in the outer continental shelf “could lift domestic crude production by nearly 1 million barrels per day,” and if the United States fully developed all its onshore fields, “output could rise by as much as 2 million barrels a day by 2030.”

All told, the National Petroleum Council pegs U.S. conventional oil reserves at 274 billion barrels. That's a lot of oil, even for a country that consumes 20 million barrels a day. These reserves alone translate into nearly 38 years' worth of oil.

But owing to the fact that our awareness of oil reserves and our capacity to extract them is always advancing, conventional and “proven reserves” are just a tiny part of the picture. As a report by the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) details, estimates based on “proven reserves” are almost always understated. In 1920, USGS estimated total world oil supplies at 60 billion barrels. In 1950, that number was pushed to 600 billion. By the mid-1990s, the estimate was 2.4 trillion. Today the estimate is 3 trillion barrels. The reason for this constant upward readjustment is technology: “Before the first U.S. well was drilled in 1859, petroleum supplies were limited to oil that oozed to the surface,” according to NCPA.

Likewise, until recently, oil supplies were limited to sources derived from traditional drilling. But that's changing. As the price of oil rises, the cost of extracting and converting less-conventional sources of hydrocarbon energy into petroleum is starting to make economic sense for developers.

That brings us to the veritable ocean of oil shale and oil sands deposits in North America.

Oil shale is a rock that can be converted into oil when heated. Oil sands are a mixture of oil, sand and clay that when injected with hot water yield bitumen, and ultimately synthetic oil.

A 2012 study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that oil shale deposits in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming “contain up to 3 trillion barrels of oil, half of which may be recoverable.” Once thought to be too expensive to extract or too technologically difficult to convert, this vast oil-shale field right in the middle of the country “presents significant opportunities for the United States,” in the GAO's understated words. As RAND's James Bartis has observed, “We've got more oil in this very compact area than the entire Middle East.”

One oil economist recently quipped that the United States may need to join OPEC. What's much more likely is that the United States and its neighbors may soon break OPEC's back.

As for the oil sands deposits, Utah alone holds between 12 billion and 19 billion barrels. Further north, the Canadian province of Alberta sits atop at least 169 billion barrels. “The oil sands are the third-largest source of proven crude oil reserves in the world, next to Saudi Arabia and Venezuela,” according to the Albertan government.

In short, the United States and its closest neighbor possess enough oil to meet our energy needs for a few centuries. These dependable, accessible oil reserves are not limitless, but they are enough to carry us comfortably to the post-petro economy.

NOPEC? Given these largely untouched reserves, one oil economist recently quipped that the United States may need to join OPEC. What's much more likely is that the United States and its neighbors may soon break OPEC's back.

Ed Morse, head of the global commodities division at Citi, reports that total production from the United States, Canada and Mexico “could rise by 11.2 million barrels per day by 2020 ... North America is becoming the new Middle East.”

In fact, according to *Financial Times*, the main topic of conversation at a recent OPEC conference was the re-emergence of the United States as a global oil power. Oil and liquid hydrocarbon output increased by 1.1 million barrels per day between 2008 and 2011. If the United States

expands oil-shale development, output will grow exponentially. “Thanks to both shale and the Canadian oil sands, North America could become self-sufficient in oil ... and even a net exporter,” said Ryan Lance, CEO of ConocoPhillips.

The ramifications are breathtaking:

■ *More wealth and job creation in the United States.* What Morse calls a “supply-and-demand revolution” in oil could add 3.6 million new U.S. jobs and increase GDP by as much as 3.3 percent by 2020.

■ *More revenue for states.* Consider Alberta, which expects to generate \$350 billion in royalties and \$122 billion in provincial and local tax revenues from its oil sands over the next quarter-century.

■ *Less dependence on unsavory regimes.* The goal of building a thriving oil sector in this hemisphere would not be autarky, but rather security from overreliance on undependable suppliers. As we learned during the 1973-1974 embargo, oil can be a weapon. When Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez wants to hurt the United States, he raises the prospect of selling his oil to China, uses his oil wealth to prop up other trouble-makers or buys Russian weapons. When Iran wants to do likewise, it threatens to close the Strait of Hormuz, funds insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan, bank-rolls Syria and diverts its petrodollars to nuclear-weapons development.

An extra 11 million barrels per day produced in the Americas would send a signal to the global oil market, enable the law of supply and demand to bring prices down, and deprive those regimes of revenue and power.

■ *Less need for military intervention in the Middle East.* The security costs associated with maintaining the energy status quo have been enormous. Dependence on Middle Eastern oil has forced the United States to prop up regimes that flout American values (Saudi Arabia), avoid directly challenging them (Iran), and go to war for them (Kuwait) or against them (Iraq). Building an energy supply base in this hemisphere would recalibrate the U.S. relationship with the Middle East from that of user and pusher to a more normalized state.

Comparisons. API concludes that taking full advantage of domestic oil reserves could decrease foreign oil imports by 79.7 percent. But Washington has to have the will to tap those reserves – or at least the good sense to get out of the way so that industry can meet market demands.

Although the Obama administration deserves credit for challenging industry to think about the post-petro economy, it opposed the Keystone XL pipeline extension – which would have carried oil derived from Canada’s oil sands – and reduced the acreage set aside for oil shale development. Drilling permits have decreased by 36 percent under the Obama administration, which also imposed a moratorium on new offshore drilling.

The reality is that oil is the fuel of both the present and the foreseeable future, and the energy alternatives of tomorrow are not yet ready to shoulder the burden at a competitive cost. Well-intentioned but costly examples of government-funded alternatives – from Solyndra’s solar-powered bankruptcy, to ethanol’s endless subsidies, to wind power’s bird-killing side effects, to

government-guaranteed Chevy Volts – only serve to underscore how efficient and cost-effective fossil fuels are by comparison.

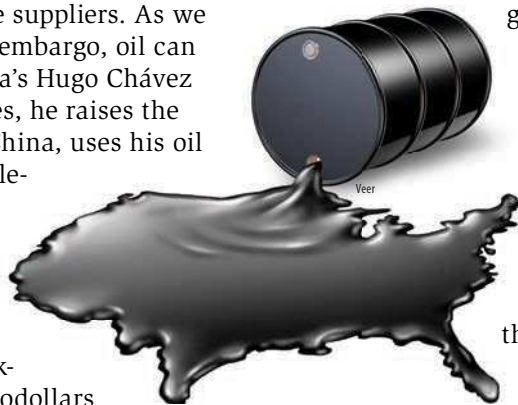
Hybrid cars, for instance, save gas but cost considerably more than non-hybrids, making them too expensive for many consumers. Take the 2012 Honda Civic Hybrid, which starts at \$24,200; the normal Civic costs \$15,955 – a 51 percent difference.

The Volt’s sticker price is \$40,000 but costs \$89,000 to build. The market’s response speaks volumes: GM’s goal was to sell 40,000 Volts in 2012, but it actually sold about 20,800.

To see a genuine commitment to oil exploration and production, look no further than this hemisphere. Quite unlike Washington’s recent approach to oil shale development, Canadian government agencies are encouraging oil sands development. The Albertan government estimates a capital investment of \$218 billion over 25 years to fully develop the region’s oil sands.

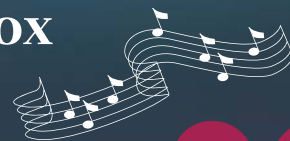
Likewise, after discovering huge caverns of offshore oil buried under miles of ocean and rock, Brazil began lining up investment pledges of some \$224 billion to fund five years of development and extraction. Eyeing an estimated 70 billion barrels, Brazil is prepared to raise \$1 trillion over 10 years to support the project. The payoff: It is positioned to become a top-5 oil producer by 2020. 🌿

Alan W. Dowd is contributing editor for The American Legion Magazine.



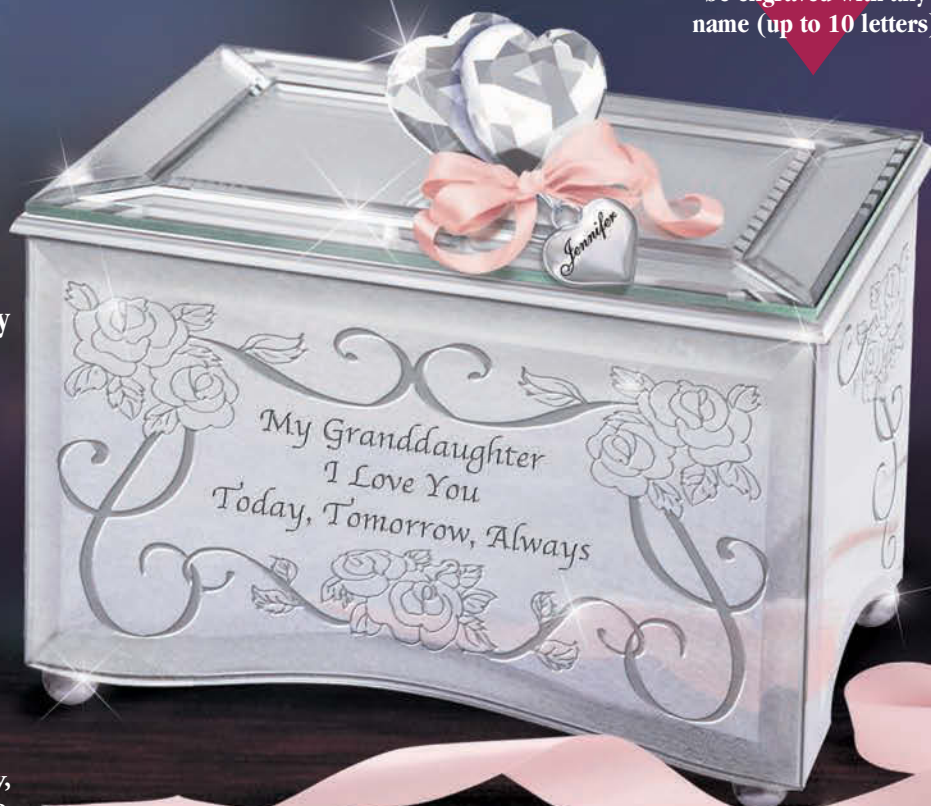
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Legionnaire Ron Howko places a flag at a U.S. soldier's grave in County Mayo, Ireland. Photo by Jeff Stoffer

A Sacred Priority

American Legion members in Ireland are serious about taking care of each other, alive or gone.

BY JEFF STOFFER

Ron Howko tromps across a rain-drenched cemetery beside a highway in County Mayo, Ireland. He stops at the headstone of Pvt. James Forkan and immediately notices a problem. The wooden pole of a small U.S. flag planted in front of the grave has snapped in half. “No problem,” Howko says. “I have more flags.”

The commander of American Legion Post IR-03 in Claremorris goes to his car, finds a fresh flag, replaces the broken one and looks thoughtfully at the burial plot of a young soldier whose wartime death was ignored for most of a century.

Forkan was one of 62 Irish-born soldiers and sailors who in 1922 were repatriated for burial in their home soil after losing their lives while fighting for the United States in World War I. They were initially buried in military cemeteries in other parts of Europe until their families, given the option, had them exhumed and brought back to Ireland. Once reburied, their associations with the U.S. military were disregarded, due mainly to Ireland's conflict with Great Britain at the time, Howko says. The fallen troops received no U.S. military honors.

No flags. No headstones engraved with rank, unit or branch of service. No Taps. “Until The American Legion and the Mayo Peace Park got involved, these men laid for over 90 years in unmarked graves,” Howko says.

Post IR-03 in Claremorris – named for Commodore John Barry, Irish-born father of the modern U.S. Navy – has taken a lead role, with support from Ireland's two other American Legion posts, to rededicate with full military honors the unmarked graves of the fallen World War I fighters. So far, Howko and his fellow Legionnaires have obtained official military headstones (choice of bronze or marble) and conducted services for 12 Irish men who died in World War I, plus one for another veteran, Michael Gibbons, who received the Medal of Honor while serving in the U.S. Navy during the Spanish-American War but, like the others, was laid to rest without military recognition.

The most recent rededication ceremony came last October, when U.S. Army Pvt. Michael K. Holmes – killed in a shellburst on Oct. 27, 1918 – finally received a service with full military honors.

Chicago Doctor Invents Affordable Hearing Aid

Outperforms Many Higher Priced Hearing Aids

Reported by J. Page

CHICAGO: A local board-certified Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) physician, Dr. S. Cherukuri, has just shaken up the hearing aid industry with the invention of a medical-grade, affordable hearing aid. **This revolutionary hearing aid is designed to help millions of people with hearing loss who cannot afford—or do not wish to pay—the much higher cost of traditional hearing aids.**

“Perhaps the best quality-to-price ratio in the hearing aid industry” – Dr. Babu, M.D. Board Certified ENT Physician

Dr. Cherukuri knew that untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer’s dementia. **He could not understand why the cost for hearing aids was so high when the prices on so many consumer electronics like TVs, DVD players, cell phones and digital cameras had fallen.**

Since Medicare and most private insurance do not cover the costs of hearing aids, which traditionally run between \$2000-\$6000 for a pair, many of the doctor’s patients could not afford the expense. Dr. Cherukuri’s goal was to find a reasonable solution that would help with the most common types of hearing loss at an affordable price, not unlike the “one-size-fits-most” reading glasses available at drug stores.

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He evaluated numerous hearing devices and sound amplifiers, including those seen on television. Without fail, almost all of these were found to amplify bass/low frequencies (below 1000 Hz) and not useful in amplifying the frequencies related to the human voice.

Inspiration from a surprising source

The doctor’s inspiration to defeat the powers-that-be that kept inexpensive hearing aids out of the hands of the public actually came from a new cell phone he had just purchased. **“I felt that if someone could devise an affordable device like an iPhone® for about \$200 that could do all sorts of things, I could create a hearing aid at a similar price.”**

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The high cost of hearing aids is a result of layers of middlemen and expensive unnecessary features. Dr. Cherukuri concluded that it would be possible to develop a medical grade hearing aid without sacrificing the quality of components. The result is the MDHearingAid PRO®, starting well under \$200. **It has been declared to be the best low-cost hearing aid that amplifies the range of sounds associated with the human voice without overly amplifying background noise.**

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“I have a \$2,000 Resound Live hearing aid in my left ear and the MDHearingAid PRO® in the right ear. I am not able to notice a significant difference in sound quality between the two hearing aids.” —Dr. May, ENT physician

“We ordered two hearing aids for my mother on Sunday, and the following Wednesday they were in our mailbox! Unbelievable! Now for the best part—they work so great, my mother says she hasn’t heard so good for many years, even with her \$2,000 digital! It was so great to see the joy on her face. She is 90 years young again.” —Al Peterson

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A bronze grave marker was unveiled, and his family was presented a U.S. burial flag and a presidential memorial certificate.

"The presentation of the flag is always an emotional event," Howko says. "The flag is usually going to an elderly relative of the deceased service person. The occasion does provide a wonderful sense of recognition for the deceased, who they would have known only through hearsay and family lore. They have pictures of these young men in their military uniforms. The ceremony provides closure and an obligation fulfilled to family dead and gone."

Remembrance of the fallen is a sacred priority for Irish Legionnaires. The Legion performs other roles in Ireland that closely resemble those of posts in the United States. There are post service officers who provide assistance with government benefits. Irish Legionnaires march in holiday parades across the country. They support shelters for homeless veterans, raise money to build war memorials, and maintain connections with the U.S. Embassy in Dublin and with active-duty American troops.

"Our main duty, as we see it, is looking after our members," says Liam Kane, commander of John F. Kennedy Post IR-63 in Dublin and past National Executive Committeeman from the Department of France, which includes Ireland's posts. "We also bury our members. We never fail to go get the flag and give them a decent funeral and play Taps, no matter what."

One major event each year, not surprisingly, is St. Patrick's Day. Legionnaires from across Ireland gather in Killarney and carry the colors through the city, typically winding their way to the Flesk Restaurant, home of Father Francis Duffy American Legion Post IR-02. "The reception we get in Killarney is unbelievable," Kane says. "American visitors want to get out and walk with us."

The Flesk is not an ordinary Irish eatery. Its walls are strikingly similar to many U.S.-based American Legion posts: they are adorned with license plates bearing the names, towns and numbers of other Legion posts around the world. U.S. tourists who happen upon the Flesk are astonished to find The American Legion's emblem hanging on the wall along with all the license plates.

"They can't get over it," says Flesk owner Dermot O'Leary, a Vietnam War veteran and Legionnaire who was drafted into the U.S. Army after he went to New York looking for work in

Share your travel stories online at the new FODPAL site

Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion (FODPAL) has a new website offering visitors a forum to share stories and photos:

 www.legion.org/fodpal




Established in the early 1950s, FODPAL is an organization within The American Legion connecting more than 15,000 members and 250 Legion posts in six departments outside the continental United States: Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Legionnaires from foreign and outlying posts perform many of the same services as continental U.S. posts, often with special focus on foreign relations, overseas grave decoration, monuments, POW/MIA repatriation, collaboration with U.S. military personnel stationed abroad and active-duty installations.

The new FODPAL website includes:

- Photos of activities and ceremonies
- History of foreign and outlying posts
- Newsletters from FODPAL departments
- Contact information
- An interactive module where site visitors can upload photos and share stories of things they saw and people they met traveling beyond the lower 48 states
- Links to related veterans organizations, military websites, and news from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)

FODPAL can also be found on Facebook, where members and friends can see what's going on where veterans are, as the group's slogan says, "still serving America's veterans ... around the world."

 www.facebook.com/fodpal

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New York Mint Announces the Limited Mintage Striking of an Extraordinary Silver Proof—the Newest United States \$100 Bill Struck in Pure Silver Bullion. Discount Price \$99



This extraordinary piece of pure silver bullion has a surface area that exceeds 15 square inches...and it contains one Troy ounce of pure silver bullion!

And now, for a limited time during the strike period, the *very first* Year 2013 \$100 Silver Proof is available at a special discount price—only \$99!

EXQUISITE DETAIL

The historic 2013 \$100 Silver Proof is an exquisite adaptation of the United States Treasury's newly-designed \$100 Federal Reserve Note—only the second new \$100 bill design in 70 years. It is a true artistic masterpiece that will always be treasured.

.999 SILVER

Best of all, this stunning Silver Proof is even more beautiful than the original, because it's struck in precious silver bullion!

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EXCLUSIVE RELEASE

The 2013 \$100 Silver Proof is being released exclusively through New York Mint and is not available anywhere else.

NOTE TO COLLECTORS: *When you place your order for the \$100 silver proof, it will be processed immediately, and the earliest orders will receive the coveted lowest registration numbers.*

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There is a limit of twenty \$100 Silver Proofs per order, and all orders are subject to acceptance by New York Mint.

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New York Mint will limit striking to only 9999 One Troy Ounce Silver Proofs for the year 2013. With the mintage selling rapidly, the time to call is now!

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Irish American Legion members prepare to march in a St. Patrick's Day parade in Killarney. Photo by Ron Howko

the early 1960s. "It happens all the time. They can't get over the fact they have found an American Legion post in Ireland."

World War II U.S. Army Air Corps veteran Glen Foy, adjutant of Post 02 in Killarney, says U.S. visitors "come over here and are surprised. American Legion? One of the women in the U.S. Embassy once called us The American Foreign Legion."

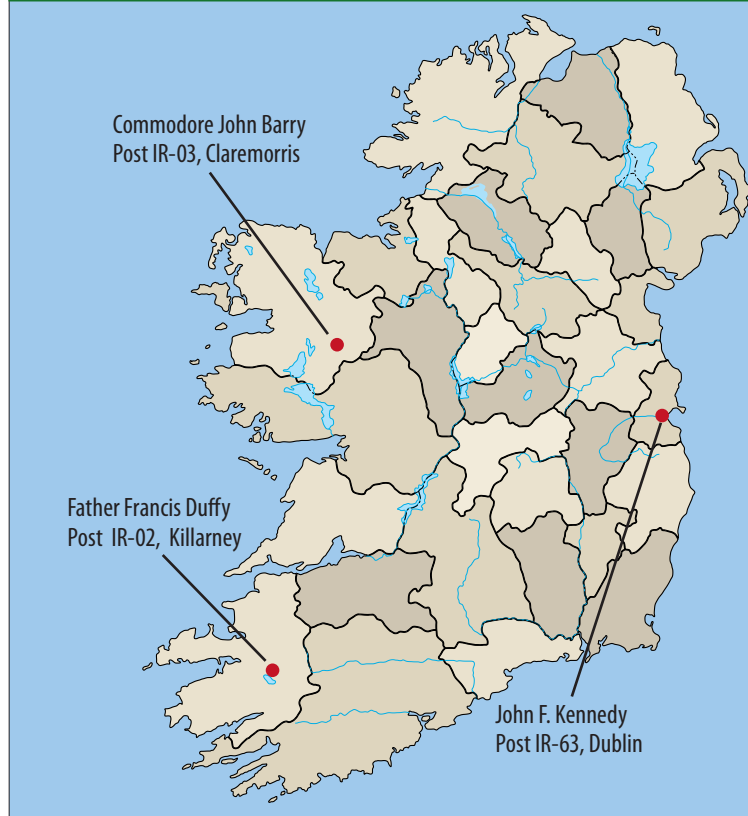
The Flesk is a magnet for U.S. tourists, especially veterans with Legion connections. The Killarney post – named for the famous World War I chaplain of New York's Fighting 69th Infantry Regiment, which drew heavily on the city's Irish immigrant population of the early 20th century – once had nearly 300 members but now has about 100, O'Leary says. "Our members are scattered now."

The post was formed in 1951 when, O'Leary says, "there were tens of thousands of Irishmen in the Korean War ... if veterans had problems, got sick or something, the Legion would look after them."

It is not a long way from there to Tipperary, which has no American Legion post. But it does have Corny's Pub, established in 1742 and now owned by U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Legionnaire Mark Cooney. Corny's is where U.S. veterans like to hang out during special events, like annual late-September ceremonies and a parade through town that ends at the Remembrance Arch, a monument "to known Irish-born who died for the cause of peace and freedom since World War II," explains Mick Haslam, a veteran of the Irish Defence Forces and chairman of the monument restoration project.

One reason service in the U.S. military has appealed to the Irish through the years is that the Irish Defence Forces – an army, air corps and naval service often deployed in support of U.N. operations – is restricted in size and can be difficult to join. That's what drove Cooney across

THE LEGION IN IRELAND



the ocean. "I always had a fascination with the military," says Cooney, a U.S. Marine from 1994 to 1998. "In Ireland, you can't just enlist in the army. You have to apply."

Cooney instead applied for a visa and waited a year for approval before he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. "Join the best, that was my theory – do it right," he says from behind the bar at Corny's, where USMC flags that were flown both in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom are proudly displayed. A U.S. flag flaps in the breeze above the entrance of the pub.

The Remembrance Arch down the hill from Corny's, meanwhile, "is a piece of history," Haslam says. "Three different groups were involved, including The American Legion – people interested in remembrance, peace and reconciliation." The memorial arch was officially unveiled by former Irish President Mary McAleese in 2005.

Engraved are the names of Ireland's war dead since World War II, including a panel dedicated purely to those from Ireland who fell while serving the United States. The arch is restored from the original portico of the officers' mess hall at Tipperary Barracks, a British garrison and military hospital from 1874 to 1922. Now a nursing home and care center, the property remains encircled by its original stone walls.

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Whether if by land, by sea or by air, the Marines have always been there for us, ready to make the ultimate sacrifice. Now, you can show your personal pride in the always faithful spirit of the United States Marine Corps—with our “USMC Semper Fi” Customized Men’s Ring.

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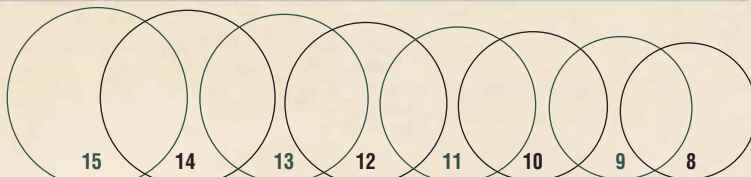


3 Left side: CUSTOMIZE with an IMPORTANT YEAR etched above the USMC crossed flags



Ring Size

Half sizes are available.



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Michael Coyne, a member of John F. Kennedy Post IR-63 in Dublin, is featured in the popular Irish documentary film "The Green Fields of Vietnam."

Photo by Jeff Stoffer

Tipperary became known to millions through the popular British anthem "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," written in 1912. Irish troops who trained or passed through the garrison before going to battle in France and Belgium during World War I were heard singing the song as they marched. In Ireland's battle for independence from Great Britain shortly after World War I, Tipperary Barracks was the scene of deadly conflicts between the Irish and the British. A website dedicated to the memorial describes Tipperary's meaning to veterans:

"Throughout the centuries and even today, Irishmen and Irishwomen have served and continue to serve with honor in foreign uniform, and on foreign soil, for noble and worthwhile causes, for which many had made the ultimate sacrifice ... Tipperary Remembrance Arch now serves as a focal point of remembrance, a place where all can gather, to remember with honor the memories of Ireland's fallen, and the enormous sacrifices that they made."

The need to better document Irish sacrifices in service to the United States and other nations is illustrated by the recent identification of 22 Irish names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. Previously, only one name on the Wall had been documented as Irish. Likewise, the number of Irish known to have died fighting with U.S. forces in the Korean War has grown from six to 29, according to the Irish Veterans Historical Research Centre.

"As part of the thread of the emigrant country we still are, it is important to understand how and why these people adopted the flags of other nations," the centre's website explains. "From the grinding poverty and hardship that was life in Ireland for so many, to the idealism and belief in

fighting for freedom or helping to overthrow tyranny, they were our brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandparents and other relatives. Irish through birth or heritage, they served – and often died – invisible but to their families and comrades-in-arms."

Michael Coyne might have been one of the names on the Wall. He remembers in vivid detail the moment in Vietnam when a fellow tanker in the U.S. Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment stepped in front of him to test the ground and was blown to pieces by a land mine. "His rib," Coyne remembers, "stuck in my arm. All that was left were his legs and his hips."

Coyne had gone to Chicago as a teenager after the death of his mother, and joined the Army at 21. He was trained as a projectionist, deployed as an officer's driver and wound up in a tank. He was shot once in the arm, received numerous shrapnel wounds and was awarded a Bronze Star. After his discharge, he worked for a brief time in the United States before returning to Ireland in 1970, where he has had a long career as an electrician and has become a voice for Irish-born Vietnam War veterans. A member of Dublin Post IR-63, he is featured in "The Green Fields of Vietnam," a popular documentary about Ireland's involvement in the war.

"I am proud that I was in Vietnam," Coyne says. "I am proud that I was in the American army. I can trace relatives who have fought in every war America ever fought. America freed the world. And The American Legion is truly an international organization." 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

The Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Pistol

Honoring All Those Who Served in Vietnam

Authorized by the Army Historical Foundation and Issued Exclusively by America Remembers®



On the left side, near the barrel, a banner reads "A Grateful Nation Remembers." Also featured is a scene portraying a group of soldiers firing with an M-60 machine gun and M-16s, the standard issue rifle for infantrymen. Also featured is artwork depicting soldiers on patrol trudging single-file through a rice paddy. Near the hammer is the iconic Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, awarded to all members of the United States military who completed at least six months of duty in the Republic of Vietnam between March 1, 1961 and March 28, 1973.

"...remember those who served, those who fought... those still missing, and those who gave their last full measure of devotion for our country." – President Ronald Reagan – 11 November, 1988 at Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

Nothing about the Vietnam War was easy. It was a conflict that took place halfway around the world in a country divided by decades of bitter history. Front lines were blurred by dense jungles, rice paddies, thick mountain forests, and acres of thick grasslands. Often, the enemy was nearly invisible. The threat of ambush lurked on every patrol, within the cities and inside every remote village.

America's involvement spanned three decades and it's estimated that more than 2,500,000 Americans served in Vietnam. More than 58,000 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice and another 365,000 were wounded. Those numbers are truly staggering, and America can never repay all those who honorably sacrificed and served.

As the United States officially marks the observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, we are proud to honor those who answered the call to duty. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those who served with honor. We can never repay the brave warriors who lost their lives and those who are still listed as missing in action. However, as Americans, we can come together to salute an entire generation of soldiers who sacrificed and served with honor and courage.

A Grateful Nation Remembers All Those Who Served

For this historic 50th Anniversary, America Remembers is proud to introduce the *Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Pistol*, issued exclusively by America Remembers and authorized by the Army Historical Foundation. Today, the Army Historical Foundation is actively engaged in spearheading the new National Museum of the United States Army to honor all those who have faithfully served America to preserve and guarantee freedom. For this Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Pistol, America Remembers selected a working

Colt® Government Model® .45 caliber pistol. Born for a combat role, the Colt .45 pistol was the classic military firearm of the 20th century, a favorite sidearm of America's military from World War I through Vietnam. Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers decorate each pistol in sparkling 24-karat gold artwork. Issued in a limited edition of 500 Tributes, this handsome presentation firearm captures the courage and sacrifice of all those who fought for freedom in Vietnam.

Honor Vietnam Veterans with this Exclusive Offer

Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. Only 500 of the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Pistols will ever be produced. To be sure of acquiring the Tribute before the edition of 500 is fully subscribed, please place your reservation promptly. We will arrange delivery through the licensed firearms dealer of your choice. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your Tribute, you may return it in original, unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund.

Few generations have faced a more daunting challenge than those who fought in Southeast Asia. When the nation called, they answered. They didn't hesitate to put their lives on the line and give everything in defense of freedom. As a nation, we owe them a tremendous amount of appreciation.

Whether you are a veteran who answered the call to duty in Vietnam, or you wish to honor your father, husband, brother, friend, or other family member, the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Pistol is sure to become a cherished addition to your collection. Order your 50th Anniversary Tribute today... and secure one of only 500 of this fitting Tribute to those who heroically served our nation in Vietnam.

©AHL, Inc.

Each side of the slide and grips feature a special Vietnam War 50th Anniversary logo commissioned by America Remembers to mark the historic 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Pictured inside the oval frame is an American soldier, the distinctive silhouette of Vietnam, and a pair of U.S. military helicopters. Also featured on the slide is an elaborately detailed Asian dragon, an image closely identified with Vietnam. The Tribute's hardware has been handsomely decorated in 24-karat gold, including the grip screws, slide stop, hammer, safety lock, and magazine catch.



The art on the right side features soldiers heading out on patrol across the Vietnamese countryside. Walking in single file was standard procedure to avoid mines and booby traps set by the enemy. Beside those soldiers is a group of helicopters touching down in the field. One of the most recognizable military vehicles of all time, the helicopter was a lifesaver in Vietnam. Near the hammer is the POW/MIA flag an on-going reminder of all those still missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnam 50th Anniversary Tribute Pistol is issued by America Remembers® under license agreement with The Army Historical Foundation.



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HONOR

A SALUTE TO HEROES

On inauguration weekend, the Legion hosted a rare gathering of Medal of Honor recipients.

A crowd of more than 800 attended The American Legion's Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball in Washington on Jan. 21. A tradition since 1953, the event included Vice President Joe Biden, former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw, House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committee chairmen Rep. Jeff Miller and Sen. Bernie Sanders, and wounded warriors and their families from nearby Fort Myer, Va.

The most celebrated guests, however, were 25 Medal of Honor recipients from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and Afghanistan. A select company rarely convened, the men took every opportunity to direct the spotlight to all who have served America in uniform.

Jack Jacobs, a retired Army colonel who repeatedly risked his life running across open rice paddies in Vietnam to evacuate wounded soldiers, said that many others have acted as heroically under fire as he did.

"We represent all the soldiers and sailors, airmen and Marines who performed valiantly," Jacobs said. "No one saw what they did, or they were killed, or the paperwork got lost. But they also sacrificed so much for our freedoms today."

Harold Fritz is another Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War, recognized for leading the remnants of his supply convoy in fending off an enemy force five times its size, even with his serious wounds. The bond he shares with other Medal of Honor recipients is part of a larger connection with all U.S. military veterans.

"You don't have to be a Medal of Honor recipient to have that camaraderie," he said. "That we served together, we fought together, we lived together and we go on together – that's really the key."



National Commander Jim Koutz welcomed "The Greatest Generation" author Tom Brokaw as emcee. Photo by Craig Roberts



Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry talks with Vietnam Army veteran and fellow Medal of Honor recipient Brian Thacker. Photo by Craig Roberts

“They welcomed me in like family, and that’s what they’ve become to me: another family. They were heroes of mine growing up and are still heroes of mine today.”

Leroy Petry, who received the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan, on belonging to a select group of Americans

Medal of Honor recipients in attendance

John Baca (Vietnam)
 Donald Ballard (Vietnam)
 Gary B. Beikirch (Vietnam)
 Patrick H. Brady (Vietnam)
 Sammy L. Davis (Vietnam)
 Roger H.C. Donlon (Vietnam)
 Walter D. Ehlers (World War II)
 Harold A. Fritz (Vietnam)
 Salvatore A. Giunta (Afghanistan)
 Thomas J. Hudner Jr. (Korean War)
 Joe M. Jackson (Vietnam)
 Jack Jacobs (Vietnam)
 Walter J. Marm Jr. (Vietnam)
 Thomas R. Norris (Vietnam)
 Robert E. O'Malley (Vietnam)
 Robert M. Patterson (Vietnam)
 Leroy A. Petry (Afghanistan)
 Alfred Rascon (Vietnam)
 Ronald E. Ray (Vietnam)
 Gordon R. Roberts (Vietnam)
 Ronald E. Rosser (Korean War)
 James M. Sprayberry (Vietnam War)
 Kenneth E. Stumpf (Vietnam War)
 Brian M. Thacker (Vietnam War)
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The moment you step into your Jacuzzi Walk-In Hot Tub you'll see the superior design and the quality of the craftsmanship. The entry step is low and the door is 100%

guaranteed not to leak. The high 17" seat enables you to sit comfortably while you bathe and to access the easy-to-reach controls. Best of all, your tub comes with the patented Jacuzzi PointPro™ jet system—which gives you a perfectly balanced water-to-air ratio to massage you thoroughly but gently. These



high-volume, low-pressure pumps are arranged in a pattern that creates swirls and spirals that provide both a total body massage and targeted treatment of specific pressure points. The tub features a high gloss acrylic coating which is more durable, scratch resistant and

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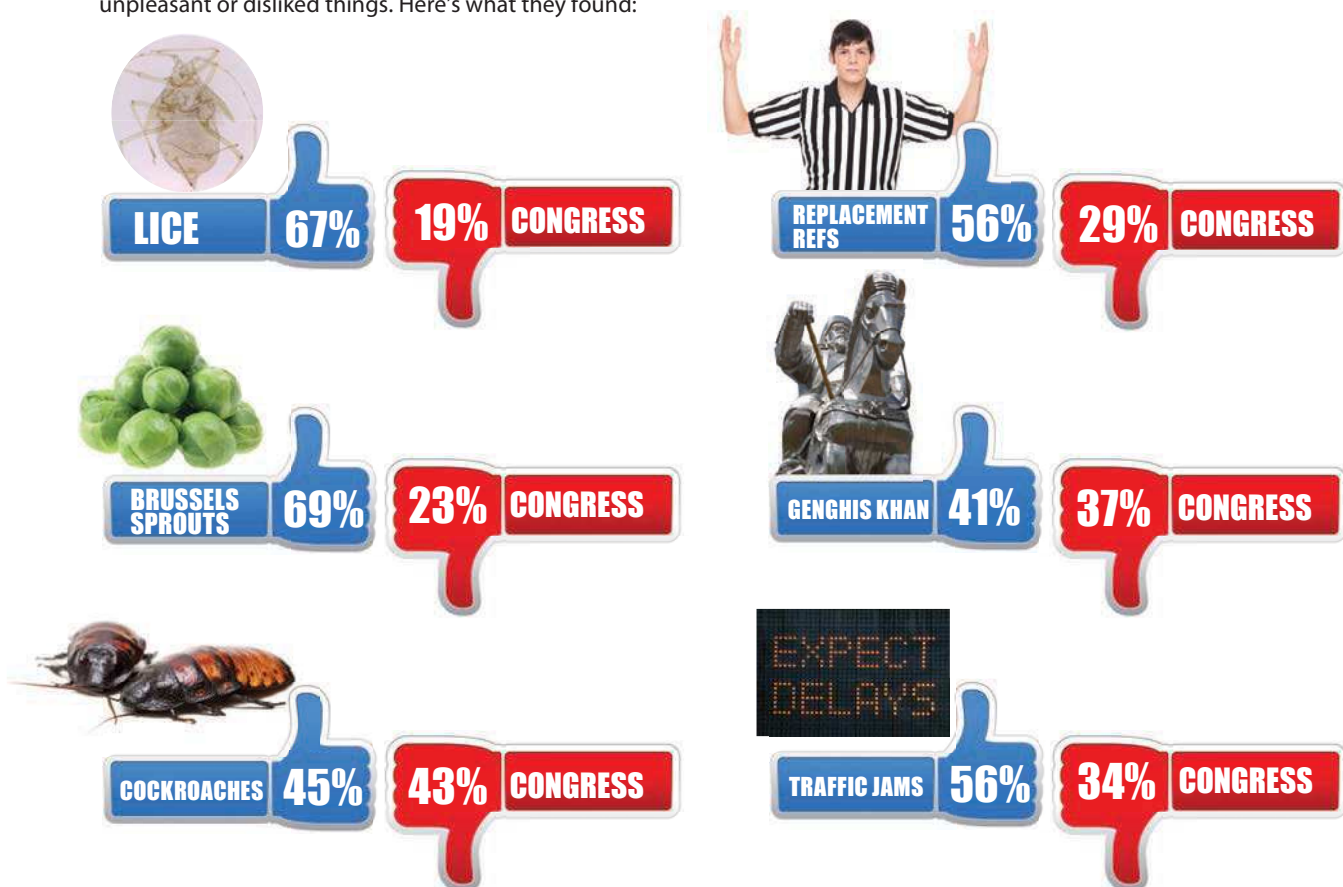
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CAPITOL HILL

What's more popular than Congress? You'd be surprised

With U.S. lawmakers hitting new lows in popularity, Public Policy Polling (PPP) kicked off 2013 with a memorable poll on just how much Americans don't like Congress. "We've seen poll after poll after poll over the last year talking about how unpopular Congress is, but really, what's the difference between an 11 percent or a 9 percent or a 7 percent favorability rating?" PPP pollsters asked. So they took a different approach: testing Congress' popularity against a series of unpleasant or disliked things. Here's what they found:



ON THE OTHER HAND

Congress did beat out **telemarketers** (45-35), the **Kardashians** (49-36), **lobbyists** (48-30), **North Korea** (61-26), **meth labs** (60-21) and **communism** (57-23). Photos by Veer

VERBATIM

“To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit. It is inimical to the dictates of sound policy. It is in violation of the traditions of America. Work must be found for able-bodied but destitute workers. The federal government must and shall quit this business of relief.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his annual message to Congress, Jan. 4, 1935



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GALLERY



In this undated photo from the Korean War, Sgt. Ron Gladstone of Battle Creek, Mich., Cpl. John McCullough of Chicago and Pfc. John Robinson of Willard, Ky., from left, use a 57 mm rifle to take out an enemy machine-gun nest. McCullough was captured on Nov. 30, 1950, and is presumed to have died or been killed while in captivity. His remains have not been recovered. U.S. Army photo

VERBATIM

“It’s like the last sacred place – the toilet – has finally succumbed to the noise of the Information Age.”

Chani Sanchez, a writer and mother in Brooklyn, N.Y., on the iPotty, a child’s training seat with a place to attach an iPad. Unveiled at the 2013 International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the iPotty will retail for about \$40.



ACTIVE DUTY

One tough recruit



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

Ten-year-old Khalil Quarles of Baltimore wanted to grow up and enlist in the Army. When he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, his dream of becoming a soldier was

shattered. However, as it has a habit of doing, the U.S. Army made the impossible possible, when troops from the 200th Military Command at Fort Meade visited Khalil to swear him in as an honorary servicemember.

As the *Daily Mail* of Britain reports, Capt. Brandon Crawford led several soldiers in presenting the young boy with a uniform and a special flag plaque.

“It’s come to my attention that one of your lifelong ambitions is to become a soldier, so I brought some of my troops here to make you an honorary member of the United States Army,” Crawford said. Khalil was speechless.

“This guy is tough,” said Crawford. “That’s why we’re happy to induct him into the Army.”

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PERSONAL FINANCE



To get out of debt, get specific

Have your good intentions for the new year already been blown to the side of the road like a grocery bag on the highway? It could be that you just didn't set yourself up correctly. Before the year is too far gone, let's look at how to approach goal setting in a way that could help you correct course and make 2013 a lucky year.

The concept of "SMART" goal setting dates back to the mid-1950s and Peter F. Drucker's book "The Practice of Management." Let's apply this approach to the No. 1 financial goal I see people pursue, the very Cadillac of resolutions: "I want to get out of debt."

■ **Specific.** The usual problem: The intent of "get out of debt" is good, but it's certainly not specific. Are you really talking about your mortgage, car loans, student loans and credit cards, or just one part or another? The fix: be laser-focused. Identify a specific debt or dollar amount to attack.

■ **Measurable.** The usual problem: You can't measure what you haven't defined. But with the first step done, you have a clear measuring stick to work against. If the goal is to shed \$5,000 in credit-card debt, you'll be able to map out a plan with benchmarks to track your progress. It doesn't have to be hard – write your goal down and post it on the fridge.

■ **Attainable.** The usual problem: Letting your enthusiasm overtake your realism. Is the general notion to get out of



debt attainable? For most folks I know, it is, but not right away. Don't put your goal in jeopardy by biting off more than you can chew. The fix: focus on the bite, not the meal. Remember the old saying: "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." Apply that logic to your debt-reduction goal.

■ **Relevant.** The usual problem: Incorrect focus. Why did you fall in debt? If it wasn't a one-off medical situation or an isolated bad decision, but

rather habitual overspending, "getting out of debt" might not be the right goal. The fix: switch your goal to one that focuses on monthly spending control and adherence to a budget. Then, you're more likely to have lasting success.

■ **Time-bound.** The usual problem: No specific time frame. If you're like me, you work better with a deadline – and so do your goals. The fix: set a date to get the task at hand knocked out as part of your new goal setting process.

So if the shoe fits (or, perhaps, fell off), why not start over? This time, try it with carefully thought-out and constructed goals that give you a better shot at success.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner for USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

www.legion.org/focusonfinances

EDUCATION



GI Bill transfer must happen during service

Q: I retired from active duty in 2010, but before I did, I transferred my GI Bill eligibility to my daughter, who was in

college at the time. She graduated last May. I still have six months of Chapter 33 educational benefits. How can I transfer the remaining benefits to my son, who will start college this fall?

A: Unfortunately, if you did not elect to transfer your educational benefits to your son while on active duty, he will not be able to use them.

Valerie Heffner, a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona, is a past vice president of the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators. askvalerie@legion.org

VERBATIM

“These guns and ammo are going out the door in armloads. Some people can hardly walk, they've got so much stuff.”

Paul Snider, organizer of a gun show at January's Expo Idaho. This year's crowd was the biggest in his 32 years of putting on the event, Snider told news station KBOI 2. "I don't think they are panicking yet, but they are very concerned about what might come down the line."



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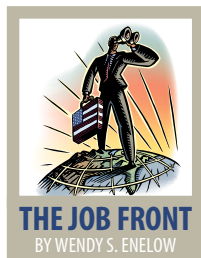
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CAREERS

Tips for writing effective LinkedIn profiles



LinkedIn has become the No. 1 recruiting source for for just about every industry and profession. Whether you're just getting started or enhancing your existing profile, here are some essential tips.

■ **Get noticed.** Write a profile headline that instantly communicates “who” you are – some examples might be “Talented Logistics Professional Who Increases Productivity” or “Electrical Engineer with 0

Percent Systems Downtime.”

■ **Sell yourself.** Optimize your summary by filling it with important achievements, relevant keywords, notable positions and other distinguishing information. The summary section holds up to 2,000 characters (including spaces), so use this section wisely.

■ **Get endorsements and recommendations.** Few descriptions carry the weight of third-party input on your talents and accomplishments. Recommendations have been part of LinkedIn for years, but endorsements of specific skills are new. Build those sections.

■ **Write achievement-focused job descriptions.** Just as with your résumés, be certain that your LinkedIn job descriptions don't just list responsibilities. That information is important, and most powerful when coupled with your accomplishments. Be comprehensive.

■ **Join LinkedIn groups.** There are thousands of them. Find groups in your industry and profession, then join so that you can share your knowledge, build your visibility and, most importantly, get to know others. These individuals may be able to open doors to opportunities that you might not otherwise know about. Many of these groups also post job openings.

■ **Build your network.** There is nothing more valuable than building a strong and diverse network on LinkedIn. The more people you connect with, the larger and faster your network grows. Your 1st-degree contacts are people you know. However, 2nd- and 3rd-degree contacts are useful for generating interviews.

There is a great deal more to know about LinkedIn, so get online and start learning.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of “Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions” and “Executive Résumé Toolkit.”

HISTORY

National WWII Museum celebrates latest expansion

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans has opened its latest addition in a \$325 million expansion project.

The \$35 million U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center features some of the “big guns” of American military might, including a B-17 Flying Fortress, a B-25J Mitchell bomber, a SBD-3 Dauntless dive bomber, a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, a P-51D

Mustang fighter and an F4U-4 Corsair fighter. The pavilion also has a massive wall honoring World War II Medal of Honor recipients, and an interactive submarine experience based on USS *Tang's* final mission.

The gift from Boeing, which built the B-17, is the largest private contribution the

museum has received to date. Funding for pavilion exhibits and artifact restoration has been provided by several private donors. The American Legion has supported the museum and its purpose since it was first envisioned by the late author Stephen Ambrose in the 1990s.

Another pavilion – Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters – is scheduled to open in 2014 and will house two gallery-filled floors that examine Allied campaigns around the globe. The Liberation Pavilion, scheduled to open in 2016, will focus on the closing months of the war and the immediate postwar years.



VETERANS HEALTH

TRICARE Prime change hits Oct. 1

In January, *The American Legion Magazine* reported on DoD's plans to stop offering TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option, in areas more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or base closure site (Veterans Update). Those plans are now final.

All three TRICARE Regions – North, South and West – will eliminate remote Prime service areas simultaneously on Oct. 1, forcing 171,000 beneficiaries to

switch to TRICARE Standard, the fee-for-service option. For military retirees needing care, that will mean higher out-of-pocket costs.

The change does not affect elderly beneficiaries who use TRICARE for Life as a supplement to Medicare. It also does not affect coverage of retirees and family members enrolled in the U.S. Family Health Plan (USFHP) at eight former Public Health Service hospitals.

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doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, there is Perfect Choice HD. It's a PSAP designed to accurately amplify sounds and deliver them to your ear. Because we've developed an efficient production process, we can make a great product at an affordable price. The unit has been designed to have an easily accessible battery, but it is small and lightweight enough to hide behind your ear... only you'll know you have it on.

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ASK A SERVICE OFFICER

Pros, cons of filing a pre-discharge claim



Cajun Comeau
Department Service
Officer, North Carolina

Q: I am leaving the service. Is it in my best interest to file a pre-discharge claim or use the traditional claims process?

A: Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) allows a servicemember to submit a claim for disability compensation 60 to 180 days prior to release from active duty or demobilization. BDD requires a minimum of 60 days to allow sufficient time to complete a medical examination process prior to

separation from service. Servicemembers with one to 59 days remaining on active duty, or who do not meet the BDD criterion requiring availability for all examinations prior to discharge, may file a Quick Start (QS) claim.

In November, the average number of days pending for BDD claims was 167, and 276 for QS claims. So based on my level of expertise and those who deal exclusively with BDD and QS claims, I would say that if you plan to leave the area

where you are separating from the service, you may be better off filing a traditional claim once you have established permanent residence somewhere. This is because the local VA regional office or medical center may have a shorter timeline for processing claims or examinations. And depending on when you leave your active-duty station, your examining facility may not be the same as the one where you receive medical care after service. This may affect continuity of care.

The pre-discharge claims programs are designed to help veterans receive VA disability benefits sooner by starting the claims process before separation. BDD and QS claims are available nationwide and open to all servicemembers on active duty, including members of the National Guard and reservists.

For more information on VA pre-discharge programs, visit www.benefits.va.gov/predischarge.

Do you have a question for Department of North Carolina Service Officer Cajun Comeau about the claims process or veterans benefits in general? Send it to askso@legion.org.

REMEMBRANCE

'Wall That Heals' tour kicks off in Ohio

The 2013 exhibition tour of "The Wall That Heals," a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, kicks off March 26-29 in Columbus, Ohio.

For more than 15 years, the exhibit has crisscrossed the country, bringing the Vietnam Wall to millions of Americans who otherwise would not see the names of family members or friends who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) maintains the replica Wall, which is made of aluminum mounted on an aluminum frame. Approximately 250 feet in length, it has 24 individual panels. The exhibit also includes an information center staffed by volunteers and a museum of tributes left at the original Wall in Washington.

VVMF Communications Manager Allyson Shaw says the volunteers are very knowledgeable and take requests for rubbings from the original Wall. Rubbing at The Wall That Heals is not recommended due to the lightweight

construction and easily scratched surface. Requested rubbings are free and usually sent in about 30 days.

Due to a lack of funds, The Wall That Heals has yet to match the original Wall – it has not been updated since 2002 and contains 58,229 names vs. 58,282 on the Wall in Washington.

See the full 2013 schedule:

 www.vvmf.org/twthtour

Request a rubbing online:

 www.vvmf.org/name-rubbing



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Richard Wrigley

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The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

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538-3638, normac@embarqmail.com; **Society of AF Nurses**, Portland, ME, 9/19-22, Peter Jefferson, (815) 867-7703, pjcr@rocketmail.com

ARMY

5th Cav, Gatlinburg, TN, 8/20-24, Jim Reecamper, (417) 844-5347, woodcamp@mowisp.net; **7/13th Arty (Vietnam)**, Charleston, SC, 10/9-13, Robert Adams, (859) 806-5199, 713reunion@gmail.com; **11th, 328th Trans Co (Lt Hel)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/19-24, Allen Causseaux, (703) 971-3218, abc5922@verizon.net; **15th FA Rgt**, Colorado Springs, CO, 5/16-19, Ray Tingstrom, (808) 271-1521, ertingstrom@centurylink.net; **26th "Yankee" Inf Div**, Warwick, RI, 6/6-8, Robert Raney, (978) 531-2257; **31st Eng Bn**, Las Vegas, 10/3-6, Bob Powers, (617) 899-3445, powers.bob@

gmail.com; **34th Sig Bn**, Branson, MO, 5/14-17, Al Hitson, (865) 680-1750, golfman55@hotmail.com; **36th, 3rd, 28th & 75th Inf Divs, 12th Armd Div, XXI Corps (Colmar Pocket, France)**, Arlington, VA, 12/5-8, C. Monika Stoy, (703) 912-4218, timmonil5@yahoo.com; **52nd Sig Bn, 581st Sig Co (Vietnam, 1965-1971)**, Corydon, IN, 6/19-23, Stu Boaz, (812) 472-3941, oldman@blueriver.net; **66th Inf Div Panthers**, Nashville, TN, 6/23-30, Lenore Angelo, (814) 948-9747, pvoangelo@msn.com; **71st Trans Bn (Long Binh, Vietnam)**, New Orleans, 6/12-16, Alan Furtado, (508) 747-0796, alson@verizon.net; **88th Med Det Dental Serv (Munich, 1964-1967)**, Portland, OR, 6/6-7, David Torker, (503) 254-8506, mtorker@msn.com

101st Abn 2/501st Inf, 2/319th Arty & 2/11th Arty (FSB Abn, Vietnam, 1969), Springfield, IL, 5/12-14, Jim Miller, (708) 205-0548, ssjimmy@comcast.net; **101st Abn Div (Hamburger Hill, 1969)**, Clarksville, TN, 5/13-16, Thomas Martin, (856) 453-8407, tommartin9385@yahoo.com; **114th Rgt 44th Inf Div (WWII)**, Boston, 9/12-14, David Weiner, (413) 783-6432, poetman@comcast.net; **117th AHC, 8th Trans (Light Heli) & Dets (Vietnam)**, Herndon, VA, 6/19-22, Allen Bennett, (850) 834-3376, namvet42@hotmail.com; **183rd Maint Det**, Fort Bragg, NC, 6/6, Pete Hill, (610) 932-6713, kenneth.b.hill10.civ@mail.mil; **238th Eng Cbt Bn (WWII)**, Nashville, TN, 7/18-21, James Druck, (717) 318-2617, jim-druck@verizon.net; **515th Trans Co (Camp Eagle, Vietnam, 1967-1971)**, Kirkwood, MO, 6/28-30, Michael Lavin, (314) 640-9816, michaelavin@outlook.com; **529th FA Obsn Bn**, Niagara Falls, NY, 9/17-20, Michael DeMario, (518) 745-8623, mjdemario@aol.com; **815th Eng Bn & 102nd Eng Co**, St. Robert, MO, 5/15-17, David Williams, (706) 769-7072, 815thengr@gmail.com; **A Co 25th Avn Bn 25th Inf Div "Little Bears,"** Branson, MO, 4/24-28, Garry Paris, (254) 547-8436, gparis@hot.rr.com

A Co & HQ 4th QM Bn 4th Armd Div, Branson, MO, 6/24-27, Lloyd Harfst, (636) 742-2071, mlharfst@charter.net; **B Co 1st Bn 501st Inf 101st Abn (1969-1970)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/18-21, Randy Shaner, (843) 655-5862, rshaner@sc.rr.com; **B Trp 7th Sqdn 17th Air Cav**, Las Vegas, 6/3-7, Buddy Harp, (573) 324-3924, buddyharp@yahoo.com; **C Btry 625th FA 40th Div**, Branson, MO, 9/9-12, George Baumli, (972) 547-6940, baumli@sbcglobal.net; **C Co 4/9 Inf (1965-1967)**, Branson, MO, 11/7-12, Robert Hudak, (386) 437-7907, b1144@aol.com; **C Trp 1/2 ACR (Fort Polk, LA, 1993-1996)**, Chicago, 7/18-20, Marcos Rico, (909) 200-0020, marcosrico30@yahoo.com; **Class 1-78 OCS Fort Benning**, Fort Benning, GA, 9/28-29, Ralph Butera, (570) 640-2098, ltcbutera@comcast.net; **Fort Greely, AK**, Dayton, OH, 9/16-19, Paul Lucas, (302) 945-8258, pagelucas2@verizon.net; **L Co 21st Inf**, Branson, MO, 5/1-5, George Vlasic, (910) 287-5618, geonanvlasic@atmc.net; **USAEUR G2**, Jacksonville, FL, 5/31-6/3, Lee McCaslin, (205) 655-5081, Immcaslin1@charter.net

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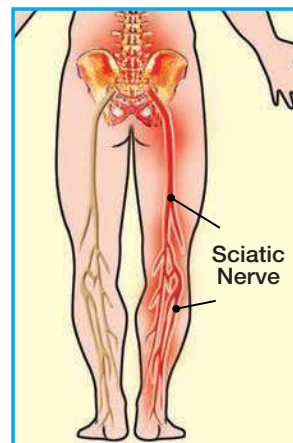


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1st Bn 7th/9th Mar H&S Co (Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, Apr 1960-May 1961), John Ward, (412) 371-3639, jtwardmarine1@yahoo.com
2nd Bn 3rd FA 3rd Armd Div (All Btrys, Germany, 1975-1979), Steve Lucero, (719) 778-3022, slucero33@yahoo.com
22nd Mar 6th Mar Div (Tsingtao, China, 1945-1946), Archie Hayes, (205) 755-6776
A Btry 2nd Bn 78th Arty (Bamburg, Germany, 1963-1965), John Suchodolski, (419) 241-2896
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A Co 115th Rgt 29th Div, Earl Miles, (559) 595-8672
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Co 350 (Sampson NTS, NY, July-Sept 1945), Gordon Knapp, (315) 839-5482
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Rockville EPCER 851 (1965-1966), Larry Braden, (970) 209-1527, lgb@cavenet.com
Ticonderoga CVA 14 X Div (1956-1959), Jerry Cole, (708) 227-0073, jcole251@yahoo.com
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TAPS

Willard W. Brandt, Dept. of North Dakota. Dept. Cmdr. 1958-1959, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1959-1960 and Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1960-1962.
Duane W. Neuman, Dept. of Wisconsin. Dept. Cmdr. 1983-1984 and Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Consultant 1995-2010.
Ralph J. Reel, Dept. of Tennessee. Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1995-1996, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1998-2000, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1994-1995 and 2009-2010, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2002-2004, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1991-1993, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2002-2004, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1997-2002 and 2004-2006, and Nat'l Sec. Tng. Cmte. Memb. 1958-1962.
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The American Legion's family of Facebook pages keeps Legionnaires and their friends connected and informed about the organization. Find your favorites from our online portal and follow us.

WWW.LEGION.ORG/FACEBOOK

He does the work of three men: Larry, Moe and Curly.

ON HER WEDDING DAY, a bride walked down the aisle only to see the groom standing at the altar with his golf bag and clubs at his side.

"What are your golf clubs doing here?" she whispered.

"Well," the groom replied, "this isn't going to take all day, is it?"

I READ A BOOK on levitation the other day. I couldn't put it down.

AN OLD MARRIED COUPLE sat on the couch watching a TV program about death planning. "Honey," said the husband, turning to his wife with a grim expression, "I want you to promise me that if there ever comes a time that I depend on machines and bottled fluids to stay alive, you will make sure to put an end to it."

"No problem, honey," his wife replied. She promptly rose, turned off the TV and poured his beer down the drain.

WHAT DO YOU CALL an unemployed jester? Nobody's fool.

AN OFFICE MANAGER asked a job applicant if she had any unusual talents. She told him that she had won several prizes in crossword puzzle and jingle-writing competitions.

"That's nice," the manager replied, "but we need someone who can be smart during office hours."

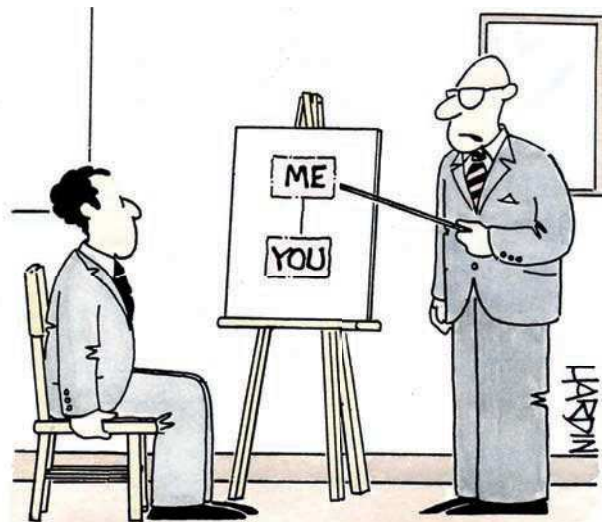
"Great!" the applicant said. "That actually *was* during office hours."



"Can't a guy ask for \$25 to repair a window without having to answer a lot of questions?"



"I guess you have another excuse to not take out the garbage."



"As you can see, recent changes have left us with a greatly simplified operational structure."

AN OLD MAN told his grandson, "You know, back in the old days, you could go to the store with a dollar and get a loaf of bread, a dozen eggs and a watermelon. You can't do that today. There's just way too many surveillance cameras."

ON PALM SUNDAY, a 5-year-old boy woke up ill and stayed home from church with a sitter. When his family returned, they were carrying palm fronds. Johnny asked what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father explained.

"Wouldn't you know it?" Johnny fumed. "The one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

"BARBARA WALTERS asked Gov. Chris Christie if he was too fat to be president. A lot of people are criticizing Barbara for asking that question. But in fairness, she asked that exact same question when she interviewed William Howard Taft." – Jay Leno



DEFECTIVE HIP REPLACEMENT

We have learned that from studies past, present and ongoing that certain hip replacements made by the following companies and the following identified types have been recalled or are subject to pending national litigation. The hip replacement devices of concern are the following:

DEPUY ORTHOPAEDICS, INC

- ASR™ Acetabular System
- ASR™ Hip Resurfacing System
- Pinnacle® (Metal on Metal only)

ZIMMER, INC

- Durom® Acetabular Cup

WRIGHT, INC.

- Conserve Cup Total Hip

If you or a family member have had one or both hips replaced since **2002**, and do not know the name of the manufacturer of your hip prosthesis or replacement device, but are having problems from pain, mobility or other concerns, then you may be entitled to compensation for the defective hip replacement device. The Branch Law Firm, a nationally known law firm, is handling these type cases and specifically representing clients on a national basis regarding the following hip devices: **Depuy ASR, Depuy Pinnacle, Zimmer Durom and Wright**. Call for a confidential interview, **1-800-828-4529** or **1-800-243-3534** and visit our website at **www.branchlawfirm.com**.

Turner W. Branch, a principal and senior partner of the Branch Law Firm, retired as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1968. He served on active duty in Camp Pendleton, California and at the Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF) in Santa Ana, California. While at Camp Pendleton he served with the Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (FMF) USMC.

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